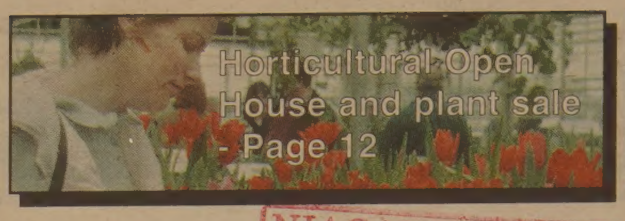


NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

NIAGARA NEWS

21 Pizza
No Taxes
with college I.D.
572 Niagara St.
Welland
734-6-241

March 24, 2000 | FREE | VOLUME 30 ISSUE 14

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism - Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Students from horticultural programs held an Open House and plant sale at the Greenhouse, Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on March 18 and 19. See related story on page 11 and photos on page 12.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

Board hikes tuition, delivers black-ink budget at meeting

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Just two days after the provincial government imposed a new cap on tuition rates, Niagara College's Board of Governors voted to hike tuition by the two per cent allowed under new ministry guidelines.

The new tuition rates were approved as part of the college's 2000-2001 budget passed during the board's March 16 meeting. Faced with a projected shortfall of about $1 million, college administrators delivered a budget showing a "modest" in-year surplus of $233,168.

"Our focus throughout the budget planning process was to meet a serious fiscal challenge without compromising the quality of our programs and services," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

For students, a two-per-cent increase means most full-time college programs will cost about $34 more a year. Tuition rates for the college's 13 post-graduate programs will not see an increase this year. Last year, tuition increased 10 per cent, the full amount of the previous government-imposed tuition cap, and post-graduate tuition rates increased by 20 per cent.

As in the past, the college will continue to set aside 30 per cent of the tuition increase for students in financial need.

For the college, the new tuition rates will generate about $105,000 in additional revenue. This money, together with an increase of $575,000 to the college's provincially funded operating grant announced last week, contributed to the surplus projection.

Hans van der Slagt, the college's vice-president of administration, explained other highlights of the budget to board members before the vote, which included the following:

Continued on Page 6

2,000 students attended Career Fair 2000

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

Once again Niagara College helped students in their employment search.

The college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake hosted Career Fair 2000 on March 15. About 53 employers from across Ontario participated in the event.

Amy Elder, manager of employment services, says about 2,000 or more students attended the fair.

"We were busy all day long," says Elder.

Police presence was heavy at the fair, with the Niagara Regional Police Service, Peel Region Police, Hamilton-Wentworth Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police all in attendance.

"The police are in heavy recruitment mode right now," says Janet Forfar, consultant for graduate services and employment services.

The event was organized by Niagara College and Brock University through a joint group called Career Connections. The group was formed to eliminate any confusion for students and employers, and to help keep track of revenue, says Elder. She adds the name would connect employers with students, and students with employers.

Career Connections was formed after watching the success of a similar joint venture including the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, and Conestoga College in Kitchener.

Career Connections plans to hold two career fairs each year. One is to be held at Brock University in St. Catharines sometime in the fall, and the other at the college's Glendale campus. Free busing is made available to all students at both institutions to and from the respective venue for the fair.

25 SEAWAY MALL
25th ANNIVERSARY
NIAGARA STREET,
WELLAND 735-0694
MON. TO FRI. 10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
INTERNET ADDRESS:
http://www.seawaymall.com

SELF SURF
http://www.seawaymall.com

In Business

College receives donations: Lundy wing renamed

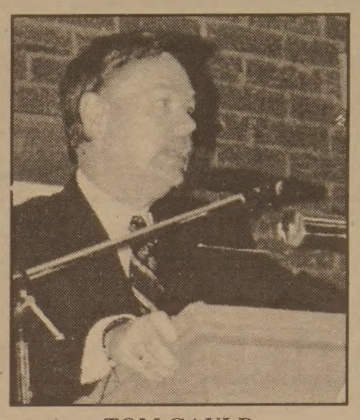
By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

By any other name it remains the same, but the programs offered in this building are among the most technologically advanced in the province, thanks to partnerships between the college and industry.

The former Lundy wing, at Niagara College's Welland campus was officially renamed the Canadian Tire Technology Innovation Centre, during a ceremony held March 16.

St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby and Roy Adams, a St. Catharines regional councillor, were among about 60 staff, students, guests and dignitaries in attendance.

The name change, approved by Niagara College's Board of Governors during its Jan. 20 meeting, recognizes the financial contributions of Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., headquartered in Welland. This donation was matched by the provincial Access to Opportunities Program fund. Together with donations by Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc. and Agilent Technologies, a division of Hewlett-Packard, the total value of new equipment available to students is more than $1.5 million.



TOM GAULD

"We are fast becoming known across the province as a 'technology college,' and today's announcement will only increase that awareness and strengthen our reputation as a leader in technology training and education," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, during his remarks.

Patterson said the college has made a "dramatic shift" toward technology programming, which, he said, is "one of the fastest-growing areas of our college."

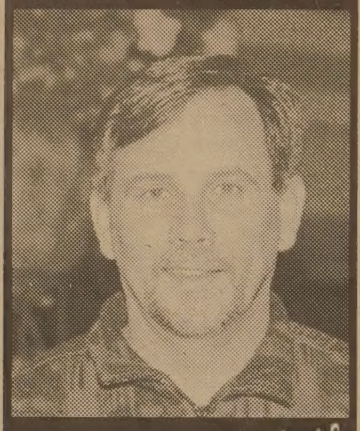
"The information technology professionals we are producing are helping the Niagara region stay competitive, and the opportunities for the college and our students to partner with local industry in areas of applied research and training are enormous."

Following the speeches, Patterson and Tom Gauld, president of Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd, unveiled a new sign. It is located above the exterior entrance to the newly named wing.

Despite snow and wind, Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, (holding ladder), and Tom Gauld, president of Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., unveil a new sign above the entrance to the former Lundy wing, at the Welland campus, during a ceremony to rename the wing The Canadian Tire Technology Innovation Centre.

Photo by John Robbins

Can you afford not to . . .



. . . put your trust in safe hands?

- GIC ALTERNATIVES (With 100% Guarantees & no probate fees)
- MORTGAGES (We'll shop for your Best Rate)
- SEVERANCE PKGS/ PENSION TRANSFERS (Pay less TAX with professional advice)
- INHERITANCES, DIVORCE & INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS (Putting your interests first)
- RRSP/RESP TRANSFERS (Let us actively manage your investments)

Call Today For Your

FREE GIC ALTERNATIVES REPORT

GREG LIDSTONE
Financial Advisor
905-374-7608

http://www.afpwmi.com
e-mail: lidstone@vaxxine.com

AFP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Member of ING Group

Web page designed to help graduates

Excellent tool for grads seeking an employment opportunity

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

Employment opportunities can be found on Niagara College's Employment Services' web page.

Janet Forfar, consultant for graduate services and employment services, says the page is an excellent tool for students. She adds graduating students can access the information from anywhere that has Internet service. All that's needed is the user code and password, available from Employment Services.

"The actual grad jobs online component of it (Web page) is open only to grads and recent graduates," she says.

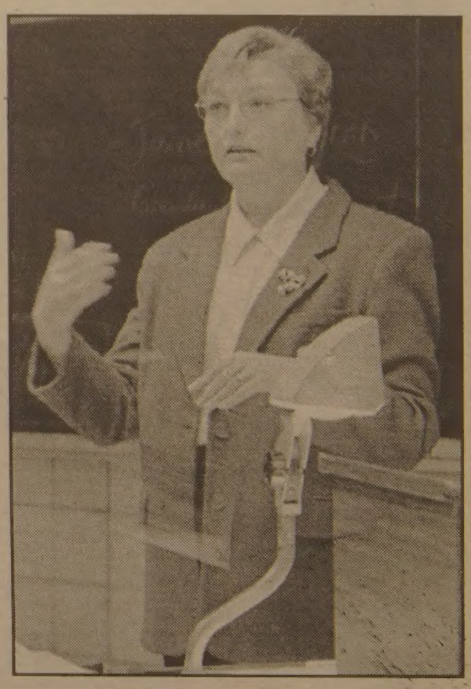
The site contains information on national and local job postings, employer information and career tips. As well, it provides the opportunity to post résumés online.

The idea for the page stemmed from the need to provide students and grads with access to jobs, says Forfar. Until the site was operational, all job postings were done on paper and kept in binders in the Employment Services office.

"But binders, and papers, and things on walls tend to . . . well, you know, if someone is really interested they may take the copy," says Forfar.

The site has a page allowing employers to post any job openings at their company. They are given a number once they register with the college. Forfar says usage of the site is increasing but employers still tend to fax or telephone their postings in, although, she says, young people often are more at ease with sending their information electronically.

For more information on the web site, students can log on at www.niagarac.om.ca/ces or stop by the Employment Services offices at either the Welland campus or the Glendale campus.



JANET FORFAR

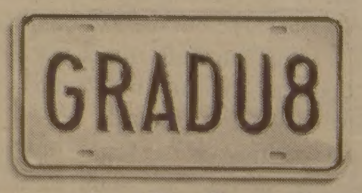
After graduation
there's only
one thing you
want to do:

get as far
away from
this place
as possible.

Perfect.

2000 CHRYSLER NEON

THE $750 GRAD REBATE Graduating? Then you're eligible for a $750 Grad Rebate that can be used in combination with any other offer when you purchase any new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicle. Including the completely redesigned 2000 Chrysler Neon. So you can put school where it belongs: in the rear view mirror.



$750 Rebate

CHRYSLER
Dodge
Jeep

Only at your neighbourhood Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep® Retailer.

Offer applies to select models excluding Dodge Viper and Plymouth Prowler. Rebate includes GST. Limited time offer applies to university or college graduates between October 1, 1997 and September 30, 2000.

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6005
Editor: Natsuko Tamura; **Associate Editor:** Shannon Palomaki; **Assistant Editor:** Mike Dilts;
Publisher: Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
Managing Editor: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program;
Associate Managing Editor: Gary Erb, professor Journalism-Print program;
Editorial Consultant: Nancy Geddie, professor Journalism-Print program;
Advertising Manager: Ron Tufts, advertising professor; **Advertising-Account Manager:** VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley;
Advertising Design: Ron Crowley, Shannon Mastaler;
Photography Consultant: Jhim Burwell, photography instructor; **Photography Crew Editor:** Jen Mago;
Film Processing: Megan Ross, Shannon Deary, Lisa Taft, John Robbins;
Contact Sheets: Matt Holley, Vicki Hartlen, Tracey Allison, Leigh Beihl;
Scanning Crew: Jason Vizbulis, Mandi Speelman, Leigh Beihl, Martin McQuaig.

Is wanting to be a millionaire your final answer?

Who wants to be a millionaire?

The popular television show attracts dreamy viewers who envy the instant rich on the screen.

No doubt you would feel you would be in heaven if you were to win a million dollars.

The subject of money is strongly connected to our lives. People care deeply about money, and the topic is the centre of discussions and conflicts at all times.

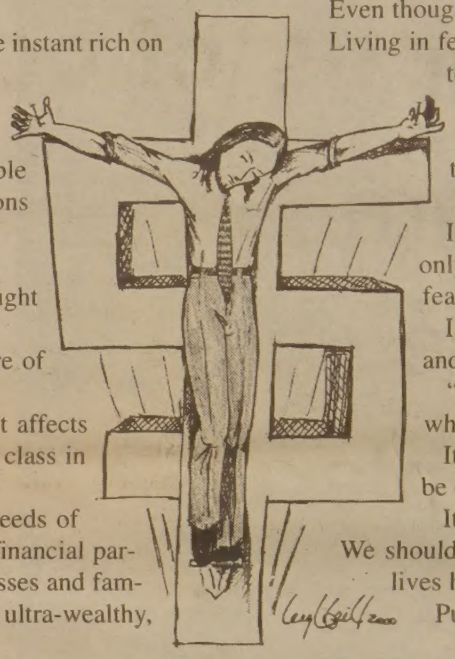
Money indeed speaks volumes.

Of course, money brings good things, but have you ever thought about how it affects your life?

I think many people who are obsessed with money are not aware of the downside of getting rich.

According to the National Post of March 11, "money and how it affects children has become a major topic of parenting" among the upper class in the U.S. where 60 new millionaires are created every day.

The article showed financial institutions are responding to the needs of super-affluent clients in such areas as Silicon Valley, by offering "financial parenting programs." From an early age, investment lessons, stress classes and family discussion programs about values are provided to children of the ultra-wealthy, who are mostly affected by "affluenza."



Even though this concerns just a handful of people, it struck me.

Living in fear of falling back, the top-notch millionaires have no time to ponder what they're doing but to keep going.

The more money you get to make, the more intensive pressure you might have to bear, because once you climb to the top, you're not likely able to see below you.

If you stop moving forward, you're replaceable.

In our competitive society, it is said the fear that "you're the only one who cannot keep up" has become pervasive. This fear is getting passed on to modern children.

I'm totally freaked out about our future. We're going too far and nobody can slow the pace down.

"A piece of paper" has tremendous power to change your whole life for better or worse.

It's good to have an ambition to be rich, but you should not be controlled by money.

It is my belief that wealth doesn't equal happiness.

We should go back to the starting point and think what makes our lives happy.

Pursue your own happiness.

Natsuko Tamura

Hockey's stick swinging violence must be stopped

For the love of the game — I think this should be the motto for anyone involved in a sport.

In current hockey news, all viewers hear about is a new slashing across the head with a player's hockey stick. What the heck is that all about?

This season I really enjoyed watching the hockey games until players started to use their sticks as weapons instead of playing tools.

First there was Boston's Marty McSorley, who was suspended for the remainder of the season for hitting Vancouver's Donald Brashear on the side of the head with a stick. Then, Toronto Maple Leaf defenceman Bryan Berard was clipped under the eye by a high stick and may not regain vision in his right eye.

Finally, the latest. New Jersey Devils defenceman Scott Niedermayer was scheduled to meet Tuesday with the National Hockey League (NHL) director of hockey operations, Colin Campbell, to discuss an altercation with Florida Panthers' Peter Worrell. Niedermayer struck the Panthers' left wing in the head with his stick while the two were exchanging blows.

With the exception of the high-sticking by Ottawa Senator Marian Hossa to Berard, because it was seen as unintentional, the other two incidents were acts of violence and poor sportsmanship. They were cheap, in the sense that the men who used their sticks as weapons couldn't hack the pressure throughout a game of hockey.

Let's say a man was walking down the street and struck another man in the head with a stick. He would probably be charged with assault with a weapon. Just because these athletes had a pair of skates on their feet doesn't mean they should be treated any differently from the man on the street.

Last weekend I went to Welland's annual Little NHL tournament. Young boys from across Canada, United States and Europe played their hearts out for their team. That is what hockey is about, a game to which the families drive endless hours to watch their sons play hard. Any sport, for that matter, should be played for the love of it and the ability to play it.

NHL hockey players are being paid big bucks to entertain millions of viewers with their skills and hard work, not to crack someone over the head.

Another issue throughout the league is whether visors should be mandatory. According to the Toronto's Sergei Berezin, all NHL players should wear visors because "it's getting dangerous."

Meetings dealing with new crease rules and interpretations and with supplementary discipline, led by former Leaf coach, Mike Murphy, who is the NHL vice-president of hockey operations, were held on Monday.

Hockey is a game, a game in which men and women play together at something they should be passionate about, not be thrown out onto the ice in the last minutes of the game to kick some ass. Attempt to get the little black puck into the net and protect your turf. Is it that difficult?

If the man on the street would be charged with assault, then so should the athlete.

Hockey is a rough contact sport, but how rough is it going to get before someone is killed? Will people still be willing to pay money to watch blood on ice? I hope not.

Shannon Palomaki

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise.
There shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.
All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors, which do not lessen the value of the advertisement, are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

Moving On

Saying goodbye to Niagara College

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

Well, it's almost the end of the academic term for the second-year Journalism-Print program students.

Within a week, we will be out on field placement, saying goodbye to Niagara College and the *Niagara News*.

Looking ahead to life outside scheduled classes scares me, but also excites me. There are unknown places out there that I am now able to explore.

Then there is the college, the newspaper and classmates.

I have not gotten along very well with most of my classmates, but one thing I can say is that we all work well together to put out a good paper.

I'm going to miss everyone, and almost wish that our time here didn't have to end, but I still can't wait to get away.

I have not had the best college experience. I have spent most of it alone, wishing that I wasn't here. However, near the end, I look back on the experience and realize that even as awful as it was, it wasn't really all that bad.

I am leaving the college with a number of new experiences under my belt and am lucky to be doing so.

I have grown a lot in Welland. I am no longer a shy little thing, afraid to do anything. I have had my taste of leadership and hard work and learned to love both. The satisfaction is that I have finally done something not everyone can do.

I am leaving the college with a number of new experiences under my belt and am lucky to be doing so.

College has taught me a lot, but now I must bid farewell to Niagara College and all those special people who make up the college.

To future students, to graduates, and especially to those in my graduating class, I wish you all luck in the future. Have fun, too.

Learning lessons of college classes

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

The end of my college career grows closer with every passing day.

I started college in the fall of 1998 enrolled in the Journalism-Print program for the main reason that I liked writing and had an intense aversion to math.

Now with the end of my two-year program almost upon me, I find myself looking back at the things I've learned.

I've learned I am an incredible time waster. Even when I was told months in advance a project was due, I still found a reason not to do it until a few days before, justifying my reasoning with this reassuring thought: "If I was getting paid for it, then I'd do it in time." This thought worked well when I fell short of the newspaper's deadline, but I have learned how to overcome this problem. I now have a book in which I keep all my appointments and other important dates. I got it only a few months ago, but better late than never.

I've learned I have absolutely no patience when things aren't going the way I want them to. I pity the poor souls who had to put up with my missed deadlines and my lame excuses, which I preferred to call "reasons." I have, over the past few months, learned that patience is a necessity in life, especially when dealing with people who don't think like me, although that should be a crime in itself.

I've learned the saying about males tending to be more immature than females is an understatement. Men are incredibly more immature than women. Often a serious conversation in the newsroom would break down into talk of who had the oldest video game system or which cartoons were better. I still say Optimus Prime could kick Megatron's metallic ass back to Cybertron.

The entire time I sat writing this I had no idea what I had learned. Sure, I learned stuff to help me find employment. I learned about newspaper writing, layout, photography and proper grammar (which, I swear, I will never fully grasp), but I didn't know what I had actually learned that I couldn't have read in a book.

Now with the end of my two-year program almost upon me, I find myself looking back at the things I've learned.

Besides a really good stapler, I am taking memories of good friends away from the college — and the realization I am human like everyone else, and myself like no one else.

College experiences will always remain

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

It's hard to believe, my college days are finally coming to an end, and I am forced to reminisce about all I will be missing.

This is for all the people in my life who have made it better, just by being there (you know who you are).

It's sad to think that never again will I wake up to the screaming of five other girls. I won't ever again be in a classroom learning how to write an article or how to do page design. I won't ever have another year-end party with my class.

There will be no more laughing till all hours with my roommates, crying or gossiping.

No more singing *Heart* with Jenn, no more dinner and dances with Louie and Melissa, no more credit card shopping with Charlene, no more laughing with Becky because of her TV habits, and no more "feeling" Jim Cuddy with Tracey. (I could go on all day.)

It's all coming to an end.

A new stage in my life is coming, and although I am excited, I can't help feel more sad than I have ever felt.

Those who I have lived with and worked with have become my family, and a bigger part of my life than they know.

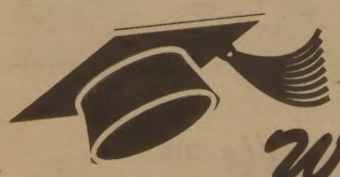
Those who I have lived with and worked with have become my family, and a bigger part of my life than they know.

I feel very sad knowing that the happiest part of my life will soon be over.

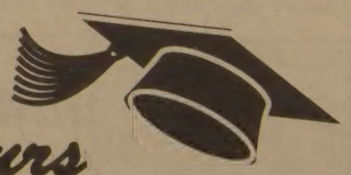
The experiences I have shared with all of you have made me a better person. All of you, in your own special way, have touched my heart in a way I will carry forever.

Thank you for always laughing with me, sharing with me, and crying with me. Most of all, thank you for making memories with me that I will never forget.

You have all made my college days nothing short of perfect.



Good luck!
With your exams and future endeavours
from the Journalism-Print, graduating class, 2000



BUDGET

Colleges 'under severe stress': van der Slagt

Provincial grants down 41 per cent between 1989 and 1999

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Ontario's community colleges are in trouble and the reasons for their financial difficulties are the same across the province, according to a recent report by Niagara College's top financial officer.

"The college system in Ontario is under severe stress," warned Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration at Niagara College, during a pre-budget presentation he made to members of Niagara College's Board of Governors, Feb. 17.

"It's important for you (board members) to realize the challenge we are facing."

In his pre-budget report, titled Long Range Financial Outlook for Community Colleges in Ontario, van der Slagt draws several "obvious" conclusions about the challenges colleges face. They include the following:

The amount of money spent on each student is lower for colleges than either universities or elementary and secondary schools.

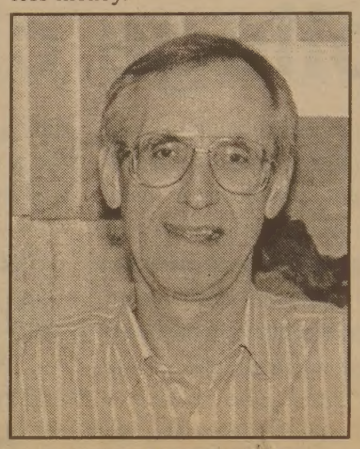
Provincial grants to colleges have been declining — down 41 per cent between 1989 and 1999 — while funding in other public sectors has either increased or decreased at a much lower rate than colleges.

It is "likely" that colleges in Ontario receive less funding than colleges in most other provinces. As of March 31, 1999, seven community colleges had an accumulated deficit.

Factors Impacting the Budget

Even as college administrators planned for a new budget, several factors affected their projections.

First, strong economic growth, ironically, tends to lower enrolment rates for colleges because individuals take jobs rather than further their education or training. Since provincial operating grants are primarily based on enrolment numbers, fewer students mean less money.



HANS VAN DER SLAGT

Second, colleges are encountering "increased competition" from private-sector post-secondary schools, who offer the same diploma credentials as colleges.

Third, van der Slagt reports "student intolerance of further fee increases is growing." During the period 1989 to 1999, tuition at Niagara College increased 146 per cent. Now, with a government-imposed two-per-cent cap on tuition over the next five years, colleges are further limited in the amount they can rely upon tuition to make up for shortfalls in revenue.

Fourth, as technology-based programming is increasing, the cost to purchase new equipment and to replace existing equipment is taking up a larger portion of revenues.

Finally, salary and benefits account for about 80 per cent of the college's operating costs. Collective bargaining agreements for support staff and academic staff are negotiated centrally between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the Council of Regents, which represents all 25 community colleges.

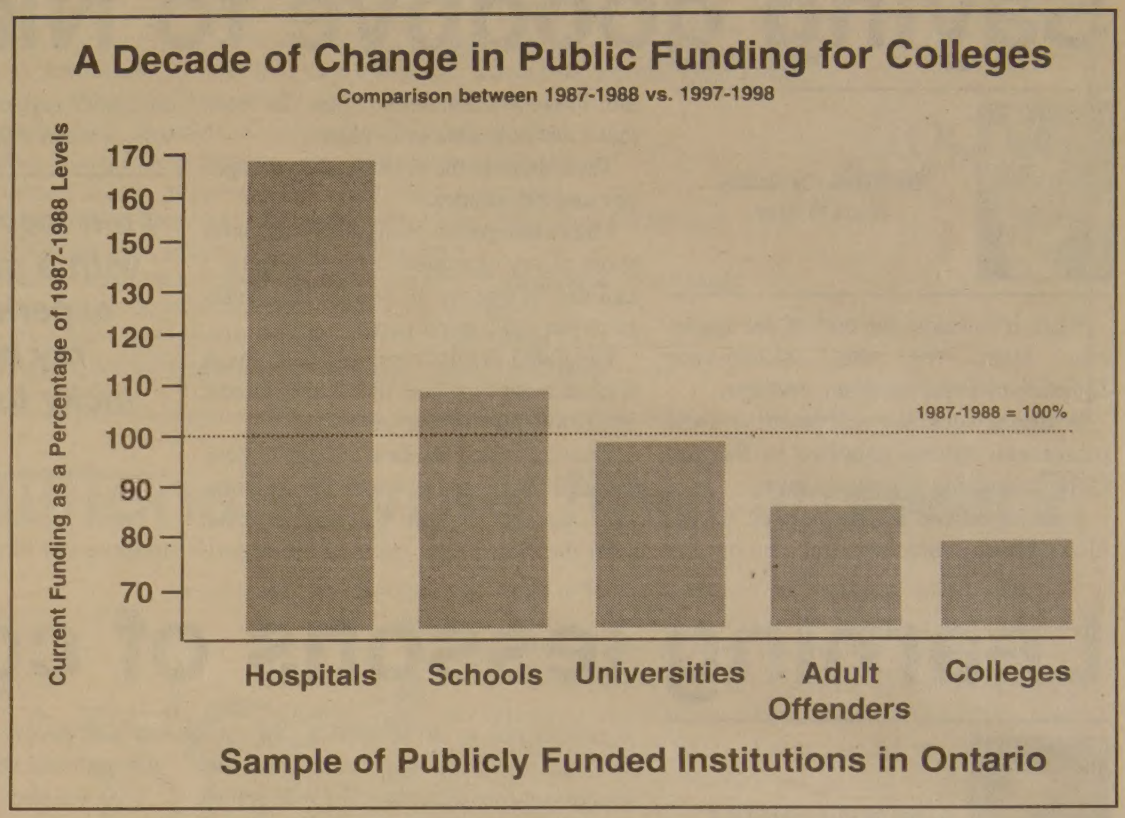
In 1989, Niagara College had 494 full-time teachers for a full-time student population number-ing 3,283. Ten years later, there were 445 full-time teachers and 5,020 full-time students. Larger classes mean less contact time between professors and students. The average number of program hours during this period decreased by 12 per cent.

Strategies

Past strategies to deal with government funding constraints, said van der Slagt, have included cuts to programs and services, early leaving and retirement programs, tuition fee increases, growth in non-government-funded activities, new private sector partnerships, and fund-raising.

Despite the challenges facing Ontario's community colleges as outlined in his report, van der Slagt was able to conclude his presentation to the board on a positive note.

"We've been in tougher situations in the past and done very well," he concluded.



Budget projects 'modest' surplus of $233,168

Continued from Front Page

• The college reports continued improvement in "revenue-generating activities" in areas such as private contract training and international education. These activities do not rely upon government funding. Revenue from international education increased 28 per cent between 1998 and 1999 and is projected to increase again this year.

• The college will use its $2.6-million accumulated surplus to pay for the purchase of a new, computer-based information system, called PeopleSoft, and the costs of an early retirement incentive plan for college staff members.

• Enrolment remains "stable" at about 5,000 full-time students despite a stronger regional and national economy.

• After adopting a mandate for applied research in January, the college plans to upgrade facilities and develop new programs compatible with this mandate and seek government and industry funding for its support.

The budget includes plans for expanded program offerings at the college, which include the following: a two-year Winery and Viticulture Technician program; a pair of two- and three-year programs in International Business and Business Administration — International Business; a two-year Pharmacy Technician program; a one-year post-graduate Tourism Development program; the three-year Business Administration — Golf Management program and a Golf Services certificate program.

After the vote, Tom Gauld, chair of the Board of Governors, thanked van der Slagt and other college staff for the work they had done to prepare the budget.

"I must say that this college does a lot with every dollar it gets," Gauld said.

Budget Highlights (Projections)

TUITION ⬆
- up by two per cent for most programs — no increase for post-graduate programs.

REVENUE ⬇
- projected to drop nearly $3 million from $55.3 million last year to $55.5 million in 2000-2001.

EXPENSES ⬇
- budgeted decrease of $3.3 million offsets projected drop in revenue.
- budget calls for "modest" surplus of $233,168 next year.

ENROLMENT ⬅
- full-time post-secondary enrolment is expected to stay near current level — 5,040 students in 1999-2000.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Elections for Student Administrative Council and student representative on the Board of Governors will take place at all three Niagara College Campuses

March 28 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SUPERBUILD REACTION

Patterson 'feels good' about provincial funding

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Following a lengthy discussion with representatives from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Dan Patterson said he "feels good" about Niagara College's chances for future provincial funding.

Patterson met with Minister Dianne Cunningham, Bob Christie, deputy minister, and David Trick, assistant deputy minister, in Toronto on March 15, three weeks after the much-anticipated SuperBuild funding announcement was made.

Both Niagara College and Brock University, in St. Catharines, were shutout of their respective bids for a share of SuperBuild's $2.9 billion fund.

The meeting was a chance for the college president to press Niagara College's case for a possible second round of capital funding from the provincial government.

Patterson gave credit to the ministry for the "positive meeting," and its commitment to listening to "a number of not-funded proposals" to the SuperBuild pot.

'Our primary strategy is to go back to the ministry.'
— Dan Patterson

The college must look at a variety of options if it will follow through with the estimated $7.3 million expansion of Niagara Falls' Maid of the Mist Centre and $10.8 million improvement project at the Welland campus.

"Our primary strategy is to go back to the ministry," said Patterson.

DAN PATTERSON

"They've indicated to us that there is still room to discuss these funds. The ministry is looking at its capital funding for some of the proposals in front of them," he said, adding Niagara was held in "meritorious standing" following its SuperBuild application.

The SuperBuild project had four requirements of its applicants: the project's potential contribution to long-term, regional economic development; the number of new student spaces created; student demand for the institution and the programming to be offered at the new facility; and the amount of private-sector partnership funding in place.

SuperBuild was not tied to any previous funding, so Niagara was given an equal shot at the grants, even though the government helped fund the new Glendale campus a few years ago.

"We showed resolve and determination when we tried to get Glendale," said Patterson, adding the same resolve will be shown in securing funds for the SuperBuild projects.

"These projects are too important not to fund."

Despite the disappointment with the SuperBuild project, Patterson said he is happy with the growth of the college in the past year.

"We've made a very important shift in investment in technology," said the college president.

He adds career fairs, business shows and the linking of Niagara College students to employers made for a "very positive year."

The college will introduce new programs in golf course management and viticulture technicianship. In what Patterson called "a very exciting project," the college will begin work on a five-acre vineyard this spring.

Patterson said he is happy to see the number of international students at the college double in the past two years.

In the college's budget, revenues from international education is projected to increase by 28 per cent over last year.

"It is a very enriching experience for all of our students."

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Brock University is looking for a little help in its efforts to be reconsidered for $21 million in provincial funding.

Like Niagara College's, Brock's two applications for funding under SuperBuild were turned down last month by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Brock's first request asked the province for $18 million toward the $25.5-million cost of building a new academic complex at its St. Catharines campus. The second application sought $3 million to purchase the Briarwood campus, in Hamilton, which the university leases.

In an interview with the Niagara News, Marie Bountrogianni, Liberal critic for colleges and universities and Hamilton-Mountain MPP, said she plans to meet with Brock University officials to discuss the university's applications and a possible appeal of the government's decision.

'The money is creating spaces, badly needed spaces for students.'
— Marie Bountrogianni

Bountrogianni said she had not been contacted by Niagara College officials, but she would be willing to speak on the college's behalf if requested.

In a press release on Feb. 23, Bountrogianni criticized the granting process and questioned the government's claim that new money is being invested in post-secondary education.

"The money is creating spaces, badly needed spaces for students, but it is the same old money under a different name. Where is the money for residences, for maintenance, for basic operations?"

Like Bountrogianni, Peter Kormos, NDP MPP for Niagara Centre, said SuperBuild money available for capital expansion at post-secondary schools does not represent a new commitment of funds by the government.

Kormos said he supports both Brock University and Niagara College in their renewed efforts to secure government funding under SuperBuild, but he is unaware of any formal appeal process.

"These grants are very political.

"There are two Tory MPPs in the (Niagara) region, one of whom is a cabinet minister. They appear to have had insufficient clout within their own government to deliver these grants."

Board of Governors approves new retirement plan

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Niagara College staff members considering early retirement are getting some financial incentive from the college.

In an effort to trim costs, the college's Board of Governors voted to approve a new early retirement incentive plan (ERIP), during its March 16 meeting.

Explaining the details of the plan to board members, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration, said the college saves money through early retirement because staff at the higher end of the pay scale are replaced by new employees earning less.

The college's 2000-2001 budget projects the ERIP will cost about $171,000 and be fully recovered through savings in the second year. Second-year savings are estimated at $303,000. The college will use a portion of its accumulated surplus to pay for the plan.

The plan is open to all active full-time employees who are eligible to receive a pension from the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology pension plan, who are at least 12 months from normal retirement age and who have not already accepted early retirement or given a notice of resignation.

Those retiring will receive 50 per cent of their annual salary at the time of retirement. This incentive payment will be made in one lump sum within one month of the employee's retirement. In addition, the college will pay 100 per cent of the cost of certain benefits in effect at the time of retirement for a maximum of five years.

Those approved to take early retirement must use vacation and lieu-time entitlements prior to leaving.

Although she had not seen all of the plan's details, Sherri Rosen, president of Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 242, which represents the college's faculty members, said the plan presents a good opportunity for those who have been considering retirement.

As for the savings to the college the ERIP represents, Rosen said the plan is a "kinder, gentler way of dealing with cuts."

The ERIP will be in effect from May 1, 2000, until Jan. 31, 2001. Eligible staff members who choose to participate are asked to declare their interest by April 30.

Hurry!

Get the next editions of the Niagara News,
there are only two more
April 7 and April 20
both will be produced by the
first-year Journalism-Print program students

EDWARD BOOKER
FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- experienced
- effective
- reliable

VOTE

- hardworking
- knowledgeable
- honest

Make sure your voice is heard on the Board of Governors
Vote for Edward Booker on March 28th

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Documentary used as venue for expression

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

This professor of film chose the Hamilton Harbour as his diamond in the rough for the focus of his upcoming documentary, scheduled to begin filming in May.

Andrew Stevenson, 33, of Burlington, is a professor at Niagara College who teaches film and film production in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, and is co-ordinator for the Screenwriting (Postgraduate) program. Originally from British Columbia, Stevenson attended the University of British Columbia, where he studied English. He continued his education at New York University, where he received his master's degree in film.

In his sixth year of teaching at Niagara, Stevenson's film credits include a short film. He writes screenplays and is also involved with student films at the college.

The documentary, which is being funded by the Ontario Arts Council, is Stevenson's first documentary and focuses on the extreme environmental impact on the harbour, which Stevenson says, is considered one of the most heavily industrial landscapes in North America.

He says he is "looking beneath the surface" by including the perspectives of people who only see the harbour while passing through the area, as well as the perspectives of residents of the area.

He says that, surprisingly, residents in the area seem to "love it."

Stevenson has done research on the history of the area as a dumping ground for toxic waste. "It was actually declared unsafe back in the 1920s," he said, adding, it also was a ground for illegal gambling and rum running from boathouses that used to be a familiar sight during this time.

ANDREW STEVENSON

Stevenson, who wrote the proposal for the film, says it is a difficult and challenging task making films in Canada because there isn't a huge market for them. It is a "very expensive" project, but, Stevenson says, it is "rewarding."

"You spend more than half of your time looking for funding." He says this is somewhat of a problem because he had less time to concentrate on the actual filming aspect. "I'm still looking for funding for post-production," he said, adding this includes activities such as editing and sound.

Despite this large obstacle, Stevenson says he enjoys making films because it allows him to reach a large number of people. He says it is a form of expression that can be powerful, even powerful enough to "change people's minds and beliefs" about a subject.

Although he will be focusing on the documentary during its creation, Stevenson says he would like to continue his pursuit by combining his teaching, scriptwriting and filming so he can "stay in touch, because it helps with teaching."

Making films is a form of expression that can be powerful, even powerful enough to 'change people's minds and beliefs.'

Stevenson says if he won $1 million, he would use the money to help fund his documentary and other film projects and to "support me with my scriptwriting."

International experience leads to better jobs

New international project specialist attributes success to language abilities and worldwide experience

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

The field of cross-cultural communication has opened up as an "exciting" career option for people with international experience and language fluency.

Kyla Pennie, 26, of Victoria, B.C., recently joined the team of Niagara College's International Education department.

Led by Director Jos Nolle, the international department has been broadening partnerships with colleges worldwide.

Kyla Pennie has recently joined the International Education department as international project specialist. China will be her first business trip destination.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

As international project specialist, Pennie is responsible for co-ordinating various kinds of international projects between Niagara College and colleges abroad.

She said she'll get involved in new projects as well as existing projects' delivery.

Her first project is coming soon. She said Niagara College is offering its courses to colleges in China.

The project allows students to take courses being offered at Niagara while attending colleges in China. She said China will be the next destination for her.

"The college is very supportive to international activities," she said. This support made it easy for her to become part of the team, she said.

'The college is very supportive to international activities.' — Kyla Pennie

With just two days on the job, she said the working environment is "very good."

"I'm very pleased to see all the people in the international education office work together."

She said she hopes her language abilities and international experience will contribute to the ongoing success of Niagara's global activities.

Pennie said gaining cultural experiences has been a priority for her.

As well as travelling in Southeast Asia, Europe, Central America and the Middle East in the past, she has experience teaching English at a junior high school in Hiroshima, Japan, for two years.

Through exploring different cultures, "I love to learn new languages," she added.

Before taking this post, she worked at Loyalist College in Belleville, Ont., for six months as an international recruitment officer.

She said having international experience helped her get that job.

Pennie said people who have lived abroad are more open-minded, adaptable and flexible. As "the world is getting globalized," employers in any field look for a person with international experiences.

She graduated from the University of Victoria in British Columbia in 1996 with a bachelor of arts in modern language (Spanish and German).

College taking leadership in South Africa's community development

Niagara assists business development in four-year project

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Niagara College is taking a leading role in the community development in South Africa.

"We've entered the final year of the fourth project," said Heather Carter, manager of Business Development Centre at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Her job is "getting you started in business," she said, explaining the centre helps people in the community who are unemployed, or on social assistance, find work through creating a new job.

They extended their service overseas.

Supported by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Canadian International Development Agency, Niagara College entered this international project with South Africa three years ago.

"It's been going very well," she said.

She visited South Africa in March last year.

Their mission was "to create an entrepreneur environment" in the Transkei area, she said.

Because "the unemployment rate in South Africa is 40 per cent," she said, there's a strong need to create their own work.

Taking the college's entrepreneurship curriculum as a model, Africans developed their own curriculum.

They worked "so hard" to build business development centres, Carter said.

"They're so eager to learn about what we do in Canada and apply it to their own culture."

'They're so eager to learn about what we do in Canada and apply it to their own culture.' — Heather Carter

At the beginning of March, she came back from her second trip to South Africa she was there about two weeks.

She said the next step was providing ideal leadership and consulting roles in terms of community development.

"People are starting businesses and they're well on their way," she said, adding they held workshops called "train the trainers" and assisted proposal writing to help them access more funding.

Carter said they expect South Africans to visit Niagara College this fall, and college faculty will be visiting there one more time in the near future to evaluate their work.

"I love working with them. They're wonderful people."

Beyond the business development project, two African students are visiting Canada to understand and exchange cultural differences. They've met representatives in the Student Administrative Council and attended some marketing and accounting classes at the college.

EMPLOYMENT

Hiring? Call 735-2211 ext. 7748

The Niagara News does not attest to the claims of any employment opportunity and encourages all those interested in any position offered to fully research every opportunity.

THE Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, prohibits discrimmination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or handicap in "Accommodation" and "Employment" advertisements. The Niagara News reserves the right to make any necessary changes in advertising copy.

NOW HIRING!

MARUSA MARKETING

- Paid Training
- Choose Your Shift
- 9A - 3P or 4P - 10P
- Competitive Base Salary
- Bonus Plan
- Incentives

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES!

Simply... Stop In
Fill Out An Application
& Schedule An Interview

DON'T DELAY!

Lower Level 3 Cross Street Downtown, Welland

Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.

Lakeside residential Girls Camp in Maine Visas — Arranged

Counselors: Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim, sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian. Non-smokers. June 18 to August 24. Attractive salary (US) plus travel allowance.

Visit our camp on our photo website: **http://homepage.mac.com/kippewaforgirls/**

To Apply: Applications are available on our website: **www.kippewa.com** or contact us at the numbers listed below for a staff brochure and application.

Kippewa, Box 340, Westwood, Massachusetts, 02090-0340, U.S.A.
e-mail: kippewa@tiac.net | tel: 781-762-8291 | fax: 781-255-7167

FIND YOURSELF IN THE RESERVE

Here's an opportunity to meet someone with depth and knowledge you may not have had the privilege of knowing before. Yourself. In the Reserve, you discover more of what you're made of by mastering new challenges. You work selected evenings and weekends, meet people with similar interests, learn with hands-on experience, and earn part-time income. Find your true potential. Join in!

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment
Now hiring for challenging summer employment.
200 James Street North, Hamilton, ON
(905) 972-4011 or 1-800-856-8488

www.dnd.ca

CANADIAN FORCES

YOUR PRIDE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR MOVE.

"You're Hired!"

BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU HEARD THAT?

THEN COME VISIT US!

hrcc.becon.org/hrcc

- RESUME WRITING
- COVER LETTERS
- GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
- JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!!

JOB GYM

HUMAN RESOURCE CENTRE OF CANADA FOR STUDENTS

ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	WELLAND
43 CHURCH ST. #502	5853 PEER ST.	250 THOROLD RD
988-4154	354-2534	732-5025

Human Resources Development Canada | Développement des ressources humaines Canada | Youth Employment Strategy | Stratégie emploi jeunesse | Canada

---

Stag & Doe
for John and Carole Fournier.
For tickets call Tara Purpura at
325-6704 or 871-7935

To Advertise in our April 7th or April 20th edition call: 735-2211 ext. 7748

Prices start at $5.00

Fraternities • Sororities •Clubs •Student Groups

Earn $1,000-$1,500 this semester with the easy CIS three-hour fund-raising event. No sales required. Fund-raising dates are filling quickly, so call 1-888-923-3238 today or visit www.campusfundraiser.com!

Hard Rock CAFE

NIAGARA FALLS

Join the Industry Leaders

KITCHEN MANAGER
RETAIL SUPERVISORS

A rewarding career is now available in one of the most exciting and fast-paced, themed restaurants in the heart of Niagara's tourist industry. If you are self-directed, have 5 years experience in the restaurant industry, of which 2-3 years are in management, then we are looking for you!

A high level of enthusiasm and self-motivation is crucial to this position, as well as, a sound knowledge of front and back of house procedures, financial reporting and controls. We provide an opportunity for a challenging career and an attractive salary/benefit package.

Please send fax or resume to:
Canadian Niagara Hotels Inc.
5685 Falls Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 5W7
Fax: (905) 371-8346

SUMMER JOBS
COLLEGE PRO PAINTERS

IS PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR RESPONSIBLE, HARDWORKING UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR:
**PART-TIME MARKETING POSITIONS IN MARCH AND APRIL*
**FULL-TIME PAINTING POSITIONS FROM MAY TO AUGUST*
POSITIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
IF INTERESTED, CALL 1-800-465-2839
OR APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.COLLEGEPRO.COM

$ NEED MORE MONEY? $

Don't have time for another job? Earn immediate cash income.
For details call now!(3 min. recorded message)
1-888-346-3570 code d-3

EXPERIENCED

Servers, bussers, dishwashers, cooks, housekeeping staff and front desk agents needed starting in April.
Please drop off or fax resume to:
Royal Park Hotel
92 Picton Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
FAX: (905) 468-4988

GREATLY REDUCE YOUR DEBT

Large company expanding in area and seeking people-oriented and ambitious applicants.
YOU DECIDE HOURS
EARNINGS PAY QUICKLY
Call 1-800-678-1817 Ext 39
Leave name and info and phone number or try 329-9611 to speak to an associate

---

"CONSIDER A CAREER IN HORTICULTURE"

NURSERY/GREENHOUSE: Wholesale nursery, growing ground covers, flowering shrubs, evergreens, flowering vines, dwarf trees and perennial flowers will be hiring additional staff for spring, both full time and seasonal. Employment is needed in potting, tagging and tying, shipping, growing, management and propagation. Work involves being both indoors and outside. Wages and positions commensurate with experience. Resumes may be dropped off to: Attention: Jane Broere (Monday to Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Willowbrook Nurseries Inc., 1000 Balfour Street, Fenwick, Ont. L0S-1C0
No phone calls please. We thank all applicants, however only those considered will be notified.

INTERCON

Attention Security Professionals
Start your career with us!

Intercon Security is searching for dedicated and proud security professionals who are interested in a career in the private security field.

Regular Full Time Security Officer
Temporary Summer Security Officers

— Why choose Intercon? —

- Placements in corporate, retail, or commercial sites
- Attractive full-time benefits and pay rates based on skills and performance
- Comprehensive in-house training such as First Aid/CPR and defensive tactics
- Career Pathing into Supervisory, Mobile, Locksmithing, and Dispatch available
- 28 years of sustained growth & success

— Requirements: —

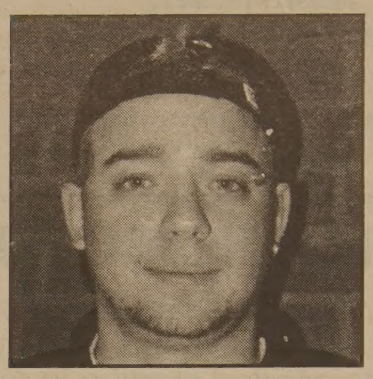
- Minimum grade 12 diploma, LASA and PFP graduates encouraged to apply
- Able to work rotating shifts and weekends
- Excellent communication and service skills
- Experienced Officers welcomed

Intercon Security
40 Sheppard Ave West, Toronto, ON, M2N 6K9
Career Line: 416-229-6949 | Fax: 416-229-1207, Attention: Recruiting
email: recruiting@interconsecurity.com | www.interconsecurity.com

CAMPUS VIEWS

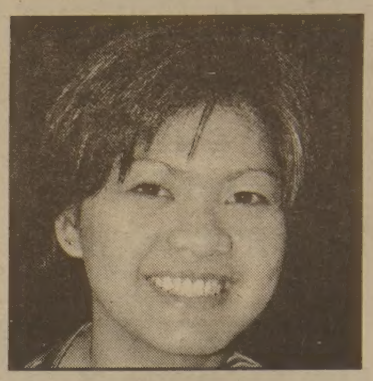
What do you think about violence in schools?

By Jen Mago



"It sucks. All the kids should be searched and schools should be stricter with security."

Brandon Schram, 21, of Chatham, Recreation and Leisure Services.



"I think mostly the reason why it happens is because they want to be famous."

Michelle Layes, 19, of Perry Sound, Office Administration — Executive (Co-op).

"It's crazy and sick, but how can you stop it? The ages are getting younger and it's out of control."

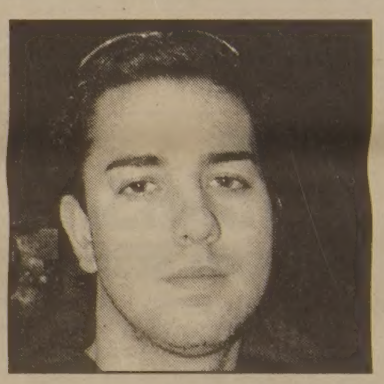
Kelly Tiessan, 20, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Recreation and Leisure Services.

"I think the parents should be fully responsible for their children's actions."

Tammy Saker, 22, of London, Office Administration — Executive (Co-op).

"I think it's terrible killing other people. It's not a way of settling any matters."

Elliott Jeyaseelan, 23, of New Dehli, India, Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op).



"I think it shows bad examples for youth today. The family units are breaking down."

Matthew Scott, 22, of New Brunswick, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film.

What do you think of the Board of Governors' decision to increase tuition for most programs by two per cent and to freeze post-graduate program tuitions at current levels?

By John Robbins

"Of course it's bad news. It's high enough already. When I started here three years ago it was $1,700. Now it's about $2,900, and that's not including books." **Sylwester Falkowski**, 25, of St. Catharines, a second-year Electrical Engineering Technician program student.

"They should give us a break. I'm taking a post-graduate program next year and that tuition is already too high. Slow down the increase. When our kids go to college, how much will tuition be then?" **Tyler Peters**, 21, of St. Catharines, a third-year Electronic Engineering Technology (Co-op) program.

"As a student, I see the need for the increases. Costs are increasing and the value of the loonie is dropping. It's unfortunate and ridiculous that we have to pay more for education that's decreasing in quality because of the Harris government." **Patricia Pichette**, of Welland, a second-year Human Relations program student.

"I think it's bad. Tuition is going up but it's the same education. The program could be better. They used to have a co-op, but they took it out the year I came. Don't get me wrong, I have learned while at Niagara. Tuition is just too high." **Lindon Barrett**, 22, of Hamilton, a second-year Human Relations program student.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

SAC elections happening on March 28

Student representative for the Board of Governors being piggy-backed on ballot

By ROBERT LAPENSEE
Staff Writer

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Super Tuesday, Niagara College-style, as the Students Administrative Council prepares for elections for the 2000/2001 school year.

Students can vote for their new president, vice-president of campus affairs and vice-president of campus events at their own campus on March 28.

At the Welland campus, the candidates for president are Ryan McLaughlin, of the Journalism-Print program, and Jason Boccinfuso, of the Police Foundations program. For vice-president of campus affairs, the candidates are Michael Reles, a Computer Programming program student, and Clinton Haggart, of the Journalism-Print program. Jeff Dutcher was acclaimed as the vice-president of campus events.

Andrea Bowman, a Tourism program student, has been acclaimed as president of the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls. For vice-president of campus affairs, there are three candidates: Robert Forster, of the Hotel and Restaurant Management program, Jeremy Walls, of the Tourism program, and Greg MacAusland, a student in the Culinary Management program.

All three positions have been filled at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Jonathan Silvestri was acclaimed as president. Chuck Holmes was acclaimed as vice-president of campus affairs, and Aaron MacGregor was acclaimed as the vice-president of campus events. All three students are in the Business Administration program.

Although there are no candidates to elect at the Glendale campus, students are still encouraged to go to the ballot box because the student representative for the college's board of governors is being piggybacked on the ballot at all campuses.

Despite all the positions that were acclaimed, Lou DiMattio, assistant to the director of student services, says she is positive about the students' interest in SAC.

"I think this year we had a lot more interest. I don't know what happened at Glendale. Maybe advertising was poor."

DiMattio added there is a lot of interest at the Welland and Maid of the Mist campuses.

Voting at the Welland campus will take place in front of the Learning Resource Centre on March 28 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the Maid of the Mist campus, students can vote in the central corridor between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the Glendale campus, voting will take place at the same time outside the library.

Plant sale successful

About 6,000 to 7,000 people visit the college greenhouse at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake

BY MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College is in full bloom at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

An open house and plant sale were held March 18 to 19 for all to come and look at and buy any plant they chose in the greenhouse, situated outside the main complex. The plants were all grown by the first- and second-year students of the horticultural programs.

"We were taught individually what each plant requires and try to keep them alive," since the second-year students grow everything a year in advance, says Sarah Vettese, 19, a first-year Horticultural Technician program student at the Glendale campus.

She says one of the easiest plants to grow is the chrysanthemum. One of the hardest is the fern, since "they are so finicky when it comes to temperature and they need a lot of humidity."

Tom Ball, co-ordinator for the horticultural programs at the Glendale campus, says about 6,000 to 7,000 people visited the greenhouse and the college "has given away more than 4,000 spider plants." Each visitor received the miniature start-ups as a thank-you gift.

He says the greenhouse has a whole variety of perennial and annual plants ranging from tulips to geraniums. "People are looking for plants with colour for their flowerbeds."

Prices range from 75 cents to $11.99 for all plants displayed in the greenhouse.

The Martha Washington geraniums and the regular geraniums are among the most popular.

In the college building, there were many other displays and plant sales set up consisting of different groups from the St. Catharines City Horticultural Society to the Niagara Cactus and Succulent Society in St. Catharines. The arboricultural students, giving demonstrations and showing equipment displays, held other displays in the barn on the campus.

The greenhouse will be open all week.

Granting tender wishes

The second-year Human Relations program donated a cheque worth $400 to the Tender Wishes Foundations on March 20. From left, Joanne Klodnicki, Anita Mishra, Lindon Barrett, Steve Somerville, president of the Tender Wishes Foundation, Ninoska Espana, Nina Wallace and Amy Shantz.

Photo by Mark Garrett

Awareness night for substance abuse

Drug and tobacco use on the rise among Ontario students

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Substance abuse, defined as drug and tobacco use, is on the rise among Ontario students according to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's 1999 drug use survey.

The four secondary school parent councils of the Lincoln, West Lincoln, and Grimsby area, in partnership with the Regional Niagara Public Health Department, are hosting a Parents' Awareness Night dealing with substance abuse in response to rising concerns about this topic.

The Awareness Night is April 6 beginning at 7 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. The event will be held at the Grimsby Senior Centre at 18 Livingston Ave. During the first hour of the free event, various agencies' representatives will speak about substance abuse in the community and assistance available for people dealing with substance abuse issues.

In the second hour, professionals from the community will be available to speak with parents and provide advice and information on related subjects.

Some of the professionals and agencies involved include the Niagara Regional Police Service, Outpatient Treatment Education and Counselling Centre, Niagara Centre for Youth Care, Alateen and Alanon, Ontario Provincial Police, Parents Against Drugs and Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving among others.

Greenhouse Flower Excursion

Vane Carson, of Beamsville, looks at tulips in bloom.

Horticultural students, Jennifer Sack (left) and Melanie Gore work for floral designing at Greenhouse.

Arboriculture demonstrations at the barn.

John and Astryda Lingaitis and Alastair Summerfield (right) check out the plant sale at Glendale campus with children, Kirstie and Courtney Lingaitis Sunday afternoon.

Goodbye, Niagara College

"The best part of my time at Niagara was the summer term I served with the six other people that started in January. Beach volleyball, beer and McDonald's picnics! Overall, I think, considering the variety of characteristics we all had, the amalgamation with the September students went well. And that's terrific. Good luck to everyone."
— Lisa Taft

(L-R) Monica Paliniewicz, Kym Crawford, Jen Mago, Mandi Speelman and Vickie Hartlen

"College was definitely an experience I'll never forget. I met friends I'll have forever and made choices I'll have to live with for a lifetime. With the bad and good times, college made me who I am. Thanks to everyone at home and at school. I couldn't have done it without you. Good luck."
— Vickie Hartlen

Vickie Hartlen
Mandi Speelman
Lisa Taft

"Experiencing the Niagara College life has helped me grow, not only academically, but as a person too. College life is important for everyone because you learn outside the classroom as much as inside the classroom."
— Rob "Hardcore" Lapensée

John Robbins and Megan Ross
Photo by Rob Lapensée

"This is my goodbye to Niagara College. It's been two years of good stuff and bad stuff. Overall, I must say I enjoyed my last semester the most. I have made some good friends and have learned a lot. I've always had fun developing pictures in the darkroom. (*wink*). I wish all the graduating students of 2000 good luck. I'm sure we'll all meet up again one day at a Press Club. Good luck and goodbye."
— Megan Ross

Mary Kotsopoulos and Sam Bayly

"Not far from my hometown, Niagara College has given me an education in a comfortable and hard-working environment.The people that I have met have enriched my life in several different ways. I would like to say thank you to my peers, especially the ones that have taken time out of their schedules to help me. Thanks to my teachers and to my family and friends who have stood by me and told me time and time again how proud they are of me. Good luck to all graduates in the future. I hope to see you at the top."
— Shannon Palomaki

(left) Jen Mago discusses politics with first-year Journalism-Print student Jennifer Chorney

Program co-ordinator Phyllis Barnatt and Kym Crawford

(L-R) Sam Bayly, Rob 'Hardcore' Lapensée and, behind the page, Mike Dilts

"Niagara College is the fourth post-secondary institution I've attended and I must say it is by far the best. The quality of the education here at Niagara is a direct result of the hard work, dedication, experience and personal attention of the teachers. To all staff and faculty I extend a sincere thank you."
— John Robbins

"To everyone in the class: Good luck in the future and may we all have as many laughs then as we do now."
— Mandi Speelman

John Robbins and Gary Ertl, Professor of Journalism

"Niagara College was a big step for me in my life, and now that I'm saying goodbye, I'm proud to have accomplished such a goal. Thank you to all my loved ones at home. I couldn't have done it with out you. Goodbye, everyone."
— Jennifer Mago

My time at Niagara College has been a fun, but trying experience. I would like to express a hearty thanks to all faculty involved in the Journalism-Print program. You have all encouraged me to do better not only in school, but also in my personal life. To a select few of my peers, thanks, I've learned so much from you as well. To everyone else, learn at least one thing — persist and you will succeed.
— Cassandra Simons

(L-R) Mark Garrett, Sam Bayly (below) Lisa Taft

From the Second-Year Journalism-Print Program students

Layout, Design and Photography by Megan Ross

SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

College hosts successful Aboriginal Career Day

Niagara's Preparatory Health program 'very useful as a stepping-stone'

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

The Aboriginal Career Day was "really good," said Hamilton General Hospital's Colleen Hill.

Hill, 31, an X-ray technician, and her co-worker, Lee McKeller, were at Niagara College's Aboriginal Career Day, March 16, at the Tecumseh centre.

Hill, a graduate of Niagara's Preparatory Health program, said she found her education at Niagara to be "very useful as a stepping-stone."

Hill has been working at Hamilton General Hospital for five years and is taking a magnetic resonance imaging course.

The two women brought a full skeleton for educational purposes, some X-rays, an X-ray machine, and some books and pamphlets.

"The more interactive you set up, the more response you'll have."

She said the key thing to anything is "perseverance."

"Everybody can achieve what they want. When I came to Niagara I had no proper sciences, but I knew this is what I wanted to do, so I kept on pushing. You have to think of the end results as well."

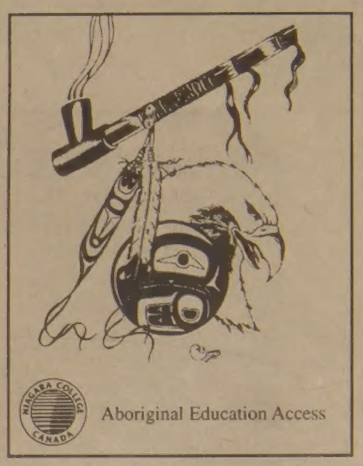
Lee McKeller, 25, of Hamilton, oversees the Aboriginal Career day, March 16, while people ask questions and look at the X-ray material and books provided. McKeller is an X-ray technician at Hamilton General Hospital.

Photo by Cassandra Simons

'Be prepared for three years of hard work. It is a pretty respectable profession.'
— Lee McKeller

Hill's co-worker, McKeller, 25, of Hamilton, is an X-ray technician. She's been working at Hamilton General Hospital for two years.

She said working in the trauma centre for the region can be "very stressful" sometimes, but "it's all part of the job."



"I think people are very interested in the career booth. I think medical technology is very interesting on the whole. Everybody seems to have had an X-ray done at one point in their life so as an X-ray technician you hear everybody's story."

She said that for anyone interested in going into this career field, the first thing one must do is be prepared.

"Be prepared for three years of hard work. It is a pretty respectable profession, but you have to like to work with people."

Golf, tennis players do earn their money

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer
Column

Golf and tennis are two sports I really enjoy playing. These are also two sports I really enjoy watching on television. The latter statement is what I want to focus on. In professional golf and pro tennis the stars earn their money.

Compare this with other pro sports in which, say, a baseball player who earns an annual salary of unjustifiable millions can bat a lousy .200 average when he is being paid to bat .300. The point is, that player will still receive his millions. However, in pro golf and tennis, if you don't perform, you don't get paid.

Let's take Tiger Woods for example. Woods, as most sports fans are aware, has been reeling off victory after victory on the Professional Golf Association (PGA) tour as of late. For each win he is earning roughly $350,000 to $500,000 (all figures US). Sure it's a tremendous amount of money for winning a golf tournament, but the fact is to win a golf tournament, you must play well. In fact, you must play extremely well.

What's my point? Woods is earning his money. If Woods stunk up the joint at these tournaments he would not get paid for his lousy performance, plain and simple.

Let's take a look at Andre Agassi, who is simply dominating the tennis tour. Agassi has had an up-and-down career. He broke into the tour with a impressive streak back in the late '80s, slumped when the '90s rolled in, then got back on track in '92 when he captured his first grand slam at Wimbledon.

After winning the '94 U.S Open and the 95 Australian, Agassi basically went into the tank for '96, '97 and '98. For those three years Agassi's tennis income was nonexistent. Last year Agassi rebounded in great fashion by winning the French Open. He also captured the U.S. Open last fall and just a few weeks ago he was victorious Down Under, winning the year's first slam, the Australian Open.

Again my point is that Agassi's tennis income for 1999 and so far into 2000 has been excellent.

Getting back to golf, many players who are on the tour are not as well off financially as many people think. They are good enough to be on the tour, but still trying to get to the point of winning serious money.

People should enjoy watching golf and tennis for the great simplicity of individual competition and for the fact that these stars earn their money.

Strolling along the beach

Jennifer Sipos, 21, of Stoney Creek, takes a walk along Hamilton's Confederation Park Beach on a bitterly cold Sunday, March 19.

Photo by Monica Paliniewicz

EYE ON NIAGARA

Funds raised for the Kidney Foundation

BY MARY KOTSOPOULOS
Staff Writer

The Kidney Foundation hosted a Media Celebrity Chili Cookoff on Feb. 25, at the Red Hot Chili Pepper to raise funds for the organization.

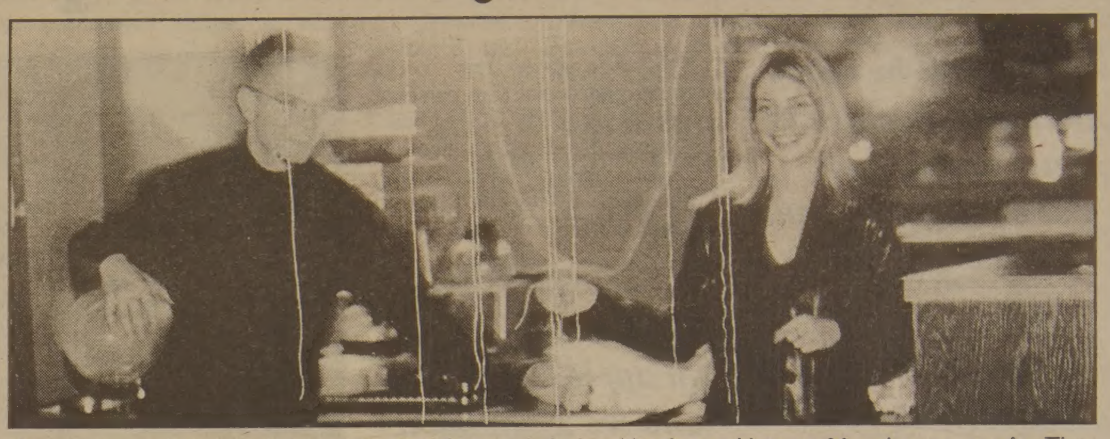
Radio and television personalities were there to participate in the event. These personalities included volunteers from 610 CKTB, 97.7 and Cogeco Channel 10.

There were nine participants who entered the chili cookoff and five judges.

I was a volunteer to help out with the event. On Friday, I arrived at 3 p.m. to help set up everything. At 4:30 p.m. participants arrived with their chili. The chili was heated up till the contest started at 5 p.m. Judges and audience members arrived after the participants to get ready for the contest.

After the nine participants, in groups of three, got their chili ready, it was brought to the judges, who spent a few minutes tasting the chili and assigning a mark to it out of 25.

The audience members purchased bowls of chili for $1 each to help raise money for the Kidney Foundation. This was a short event, but fortunately it helped raise money for the Kidney Foundation.



Mary Kotsopoulos (right), 21, of St. Catharines, is helped by Aaron Hogan, 20, a bar runner for The Red Hot Chili Pepper to set up for the annual Chili Cookoff held on Feb. 25 in St. Catharines.

Photo by Shannon Palomaki

Muslim Students' Association planning college cleanup

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

The Muslim Students' Association (MSA) club is organizing a college campus cleanup day in which students can participate.

Wassim Yassine, club president, says, "Everyone is welcome to help."

The students will go specifically on Niagara College's property, at the Welland campus, to clean up any trash and litter that they can.

Yassine, 24, of London, said the date has not yet been determined, but there will be signs posted in the college for interested students.

The MSA has had meetings at which members talked about the MSA constitution and possible ways of incorporating new methods of reaching and interacting with the community, he said.

"One female member brought up the idea to go to the government to ask for funds."

Last week, the MSA club has just celebrated "Aid, the Aid of sacrifice."

The aid of sacrifice is the time the prophet Abraham was going to slay his son for Allah.Then Allah sent a cow from heaven as a replacement so that the sacrifice was the cow, not Abraham's son.

"It was a test for Abraham."

The aid of sacrifice is a three-day celebration. On the first day, at about 8:30 a.m., Muslims gather together to praise Allah. After that they pray in congregation. Then they choose to either stay and continue to praise Allah, or go home and spend time with family and friends, said Yassine.

The second and third day of the celebration is spent with family and friends.

"This is a broad perspective, but the heart and purpose is to mention, praise and worship Allah. To think of him for three days. We pray more, read the Qur'an more, keep good family ties and we also give charity to the needy."

On March 21, Yassine, and MSA club vice-president, Faisal, went to a conference called "Why Diversity?"

The conference was sponsored by The Multicultural Network of Niagara Falls at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

"Representatives of different organizations went to the conference. Faisal (vice-president) and I went to represent Niagara College.

"While being there, yes, it did help out a lot. We learned that it's important to communicate and to be active in communication, not inactive."

Anyone interested in the clean-up activity can call Yassine at 714-4553 for further details.

Open letter to TSN

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer
Column

I was going to do a review on The Rock Says . . . , the autobiography of the Rock brought to us by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF). Instead I need to address a more important issue.

I'd like to take this chance to thank the person at TSN who was responsible for editing last week's episodes of WWF Monday Night Raw is War and World Championship Wrestling's Monday Nitro. Thanks for deciding for me that I wouldn't have wanted to see people performing, showing the skill they've taken so many years to learn.

But, please, show me again the maliciousness of Marty McSorley swinging his stick at Donald Brashear's head, or the brutality of Brian Berard taking the blade of a hockey stick right in the eye. Show me again because I would much rather see violence at its purest, most honest form than to see it completely exaggerated by some entertainers who are paid to do so.

Thank you for deciding what I should and shouldn't be able to watch. At the tender, impressionable age of 21, I do not have the capability to distinguish the decent programming from the filth. It makes me happy that someone doesn't think I am responsible enough to choose the television programs I want to watch. Thank you for looking out for me.

Your censorship is much appreciated, especially in a late-night time slot. Those of us who stay up past our bed times really enjoyed your piece of Swiss cheese that you call a Raw is War program. As a journalist, I can fully value the time you take in trying to distort the truth of weekly television shows the public wants to see and advertisers want to pay for.

So, from a loyal viewer, keep up the good work. Keep showing your bias, your knowledge of what people want to see. Keep playing God and keep telling people what programming is bad and make it right.

Oh, in case you couldn't tell, I was being SARCASTIC.

This week's question is what Canadian television network, other than TSN, airs a virtuously unedited version of Sunday Night Heat?

You can send your answer, along with your name and program, to niagaranews@yahoo.com. Or you can bring your answers up to the Journalism-Print program newsroom, located at S212 in the Simcoe building at the Welland campus.

Hangin' out

Mathew Rosenbloun, of Milton, Ont., participates in a hang-gliding simulator under the watchful eye of Peter Church, of High Perspective Hang Gliding and Paragliding at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show last week.

Photo by Craig Stratychuk

Riding the Riff IV

Rock band wants to play at next level

Group will be ready to return to clubs in June and release CD at summer's end

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

3 A.M. is a group looking to break out of the cover band scene so they can start playing their own music full time.

"The table is set. The music's there. The talent is there. What we need right now is the connections to move forward," says Rafe Haines, who plays drums and provides a number of other duties including backing vocals, keyboarding and songwriting.

Haines, along with Mike Held, lead guitarist, and Alex Puharich, rhythm guitarist, are the three founding members of the group that has been together for nine years.

A year and a half ago, they selected John Saturno, out of nine potentials, to sing lead vocals for them. "He's the best," says Held. His strong voice has "great" range and he has good experience from working with other bands, adds Haines. They both agree that his positive attitude closed the deal for them.

This is a group that works together and doesn't let personal problems get in the way of making music. There are no big egos in the group, Held says. "Everybody brings an apple to practice and we try to make a pie out of it."

'Everybody brings an apple to practice and we try to make a pie out of it.'
— Mike Held

The newest member, Attilla Elek, is the band's bassist. He went through an extensive selection process after the original bassist left a few months ago.

The five-member group has a wide variety of tastes that they use to create their own sound. "That's the secret of the band, to pull all the influences together and make it work," says Held. There are "no major influences that define our sound," says Haines. He adds their sound would be classified as rock or rock/alternative (not grunge) but Held adds it's "good rock" not "stink rock." He credits this to the high calibre of talent in the band.

3 A.M. is, from left, Alex Puharich, rhythm guitarist, John Saturno, lead vocalist, Rafe Haines, drummer, and Mike Held, lead guitarist. Missing is their new bassist, Attilla Elek.

Photo by Sam Bayly

"We don't use a lot of 'bells and whistles' in our music because we don't need to cover up our playing or vocals."

The band is working on completing its second CD, its first with Saturno on vocals. The CD is expected to be out by the end of summer. The band has already completed four tracks and the rest are in pre-production.

"We first like to test out the songs in small clubs where we get honest feedback from friends and fans, which we use to fine-tune our music," says Puharich.

The bigger clubs the band has played have been the Lion's Tavern in Port Dalhousie and The Basement in Niagara Falls. They also played in the Labour Day weekend music show at Front 54, something they plan to do again this year, and at a battle of the bands at a club in Providence, Rhode Island. They've also played on Daytime, a Rogers Cable morning show.

The band says they are ready to play anywhere.

Logo used on first CD

"It's not about playing for money," says Puharich. "At this stage it's about promotion, getting people to hear you."

The band has been well received by audience members in the clubs where it has played, says Haines. It has been their positive feedback that has spurred the group to aim high.

"We are interested in eventually getting signed and getting on with our careers. The quality of our music will sell itself. It's just a matter of getting heard."

You will be able to check out 3 A.M. in June when they return to the local club scene.

Indie artist ready to move in new direction

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

Look out, Niagara. Brado Creamed Corn is set to release his newest indie CD.

"Man, I'm messed up," says Brad Pine, 24, aka Brado Creamed Corn, more than once, during his interview in his Niagara Falls home.

Pine has been involved in the underground music scene for over eight years and is getting ready to release a new CD. He describes the music as "various instrumental avant-garde noise and beatnik digital hardcore recordings." The music, produced and recorded by Pine, is being mastered in Toronto and will be ready for release in two to three months. Pine has yet to decide whether to put the CD under his label, Mental, or someone else's.

"No one's doing this around here," he says. This music has been around since the '50s but what makes his music different is that the samples used on his new CD were created entirely by him.

Pine has been involved with electronic music since 1998. He has two solo releases out titled **Alien Sound Scapes** and **Talk to a Dead Psychic & the Crucifixion Highway**, which he released under the name Brado Creamed Corn.

Pine says he's been listening to indie groups such as Parts Unknown, The Dinner is Ruined Band, Chrome and Helios Creed (a member of Chrome).

'I just imagine all this chaos.'
— Brad Pine

Pine's former band, Malicki's Happy Corn Club (so named from the Stephen King short story and film Children of the Corn), was part pop, punk, metal and hardcore industrial. They were known for their dark and satanic lyrics. They were even banned from the Hideway in St. Catharines because of their song about Paul Bernardo. The group has since disbanded and Pine says he's become "bored with punk. You can only go so far. As you grow you want to change."

He adds, "I was thinking instead of trying to fight into a genre (of music). (I'd) make up my own genre and be a pioneer."

Brad Pine is Brado Creamed Corn. Pine has a new CD he plans to release in a couple of months. Brad has been involved in the indie scene for over eight years and is pioneering with this latest release.

Photo by Sam Bayly

It has been three years since Pine has performed with a band and he said he's looking forward to doing it again but he wants to do something different on stage. "I just imagine all this chaos."

He says he'll have a backup band because it's "no fun unless you've got some people with you." He adds St. Catharines is the only place he wants to play in the Niagara region. "The St. Catharines' art scene is good. (It's) like a mini Toronto."

During this down time, Pine has been giving speeches and lectures as well as readings of his poetry. He has been an advocate of free speech and appeared on the CBC's Jonovision, along with Choclaire, to discuss the issue.

From shock-rock to beatnik digital hardcore, Pine is sure to raise eyebrows when he returns to clubs to promote his new CD.

Visit Pine's Web site at http://www.angelfire.com/ma/bradocreamedcorn or e-mail him at bradocreamedcorn@yahoo.com.

PARTY at Planet Hollywood

An Academy Awards party being held at Planet Hollywood to benefit United Way of Niagara Falls.

Activities to include:
- Oscar Trivia
- Star Lookalike contest
- Raffles for "star-like" prizes

Tickets $15. per person
***buffet dinner included**
The event begins at 8 p.m.
For more info call
Planet Hollywood
905-374-8332

Riding the Riff IV

Fuzzbug 'zeroing in on a style of music'

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

They will rock you.

With another year of experience under its belt, the band Fuzzbug "writes better songs" and is still putting on solid musical performances, says Kelly Jones, the band's lead vocalist and bassist.

"Last year was our preschool, kindergarten days. Now we're nearing Grade 8 graduation," says Jones, referring to the band's experience.

Guitarist Steve D'Orazio says the band is zeroing in on a style of music.

Their musical style has changed a little from alternative rock to rock 'n' roll in the style of Weezer and Sloan. This sometimes makes it a "challenge" for them to perform in Welland because most of the bands there are into heavier alternative music, says Jones.

They also spend more time perfecting individual songs, adds Drummer Billy Topolinsky.

Fuzzbug is trying to perform two to three times a month but the members find it difficult because each of them is in school. Jones, 21, is in his second year of the Recreation and Leisure Services program at Niagara College. D'Orazio, 19, the lead guitarist, is taking Niagara College's Journalism-Print program. Anthony Brailey, guitarist, is at Brock University taking the Business Administration program. Topolinsky, 17, is at Notre Dame High School in Welland.

Fuzzbug's Steve D'Orazio (far left) waits for band members, Anthony Brailey, Kelly Jones and Billy Topolinsky.
Photo by Sam Bayly

The band is releasing a new, six-song CD within the next few weeks called **Pat Versus Matt** which can be purchased for $5 at Sam the Record Man in the Seaway Mall, The Studio or Cyril Skateboard Shop in Welland. This is the band's second CD. The first, **What's Up Bolio**, was released last year.

The band has been together since 1996 and has performed at the Mind Bomb in St. Catharines and the Rose Villa and After Hours in Welland. It has participated in two Battle of the Bands competitions at After Hours and this year placed sixth out of 12 bands.

Fuzzbug's goal is still to perform at a club in Toronto and they got close when they played at a club in Oakville. Jones, who does most of the booking, said they're looking forward to playing a weekend concert at Mount Forest near Collingwood. You can look for their next performance some time in May.

They say they play many free concerts just for the fun of it and to get their name out.

The quartet says they would like to see more people coming out to support their local bands. "(Audience turnout) is at the lowest point I've ever seen it," says D'Orazio.

Jones says, "If you make the effort to come see us play, we'll put on a good show."

King of the Attic still playing after 20 years

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Their first official CD, a blend of the 1970's heavy rock updated to 1990's, 2000 rock, will be released on April 1.

King of the Attic has been together for about 20 years. The band got together through being friends, said lead guitarist and vocalist, Chris Smith.

Smith, 49, of Port Colborne, said the band used to rehearse in the attic and just caught on to the name.

Smith said the members of the band have changed over the years, as the drummer has been a member off and on, while the band is back to its original bass player.

The band members, Smith, bass player, and vocalist Rick Laroache, 44, and drummer, Gary Kelda, 39, have been on the circuit for years, said Smith.

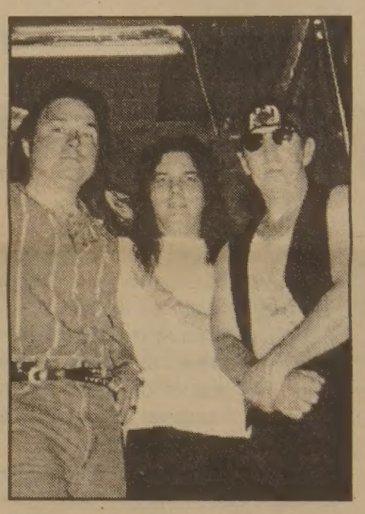
"We've had a few hits. We started recording on a record label with Ray Charles once."

The King of the Attic had three singles on 45 records. In the '80s they came out with a cassette called King of the Attic six pack to go.

"Back when 45's were around, we had two songs, *Kaleidoscope* and *Something Called Love*. They weren't No. 1 on the charts, but we were on the Top 10."

Smith said the band has been rather obscure for the last 10 years.

It played at Nickel Beach last year and played at Port Colborne doing street dances in the late mid-70s.



King of the Attic is having a CD-release party on April 1 at Stages bar in Port Colborne.
Submitted photo

"We made the news clippings of the event called 'Port Stock,' which everyone thought would bring in about a couple hundred people, but what actually brought in about 1,000 people."

He said the band members like to do any concert where they can "slip in and out" easily because "we're not a commercial band."

"None of us do this for a living. We all have families and jobs. We play just for ourselves and for the public."

The band feels that all of their appearances are "kind of extravagant," and they've only played two or three times in the last year, said Smith.

Smith writes all the music for the band. However, they do a "few covers" they like to play, he said.

"We like to play a lot of obscure stuff."

He said they record at King of the Attic's studios.

"It's a bona fide studio in Welland. We've leased the commercial space. We have three studios that we like to keep under wraps."

He said the studio is like an "underground insider facility."

"We do the production by ourselves. We have extensive equipment."

He explained when they recorded the material for their first CD they had a recording engineer, Daniel Monroe.

They met and did one session on Labour Day of last year and performed four songs. Then they met for another session just before Christmas and performed another six songs.

"We're a live performance band. We don't sit around and tinker. We do it once live. It's like playing off the floor."

The CD-release party is going to be held on April 1 at Stages bar in Port Colborne, starting around 10 p.m. Rob Marleau, soloist, who plays keyboards and the electric guitar, will be opening for King of the Attic.

"He's a good opener for us to have."

The CD, **Down the Wire**, is named after its lead song.

"**Down the Wire** has a Bonnie and Clyde theme to it. There's intrigue to it. It's a bit of an old theme, a subdued theme."

"We just want to keep playing and doing what we've been doing.

"We've been going on for years. Recording companies aren't going to pick us up now. We like to put out a good product. Like I said, we play for the public. We've all got our own lives, but if someone came along we'd take it."

Smith said the band thanks everyone who's been loyal to them.

"We have a fairly large, loyal crowd, and we couldn't play if it wasn't for them."

Of all the places King of the Attic has played, Smith said, Port Stock is probably one of the biggest and most memorable experiences.

"There were so many people there and we never expected it . . . Basically we just want to play."

Riding the Riff IV

Band determined to create 'real music'

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

The Paul Antonio band is on a mission: to restore rock and roll to the days when it had soul and meaning.

The band got together in the summer of 1999 and has been going strong ever since.

"I finally met the right guys and it just clicked," said Antonio in a press release.

"We are a really good live band," he said in an interview at The River, a bar in Niagara Falls where the band plays every Thursday night. "They are really a great bunch of musicians. I'm really lucky to have these guys."

Each of the "right guys" has his own strong background in music. All are professional musicians except for Phil Martin, who is still in school, and Antonio, who jokes that he is the only one with a day job.

Jay Reed, the band's 23-year-old lead guitarist from St. Anne's, Ont., plays every genre of music, from rock to country. He went to Mohawk College in Hamilton to learn to play jazz music. He has performed with the Leslie Spit Trio, in addition to playing with the Paul Antonio Band. Reed also plays in the house band on City TV in Toronto.

Phil Martin is a native of Welland and the band's bass player. At 21, he is the youngest member of the band and plays the electric bass and the upright bass. Martin attends Brock University, where he is studying classical music. He has played in a few bands while growing up, has toured Europe and has received a gold medal at Musicfest Canada in the jazz combo category in 1997.

Drummer Murad Gunduz, an original member of the band, also studied in the Jazz program at Mohawk College. According to a press release, he has worked with Grammy award-winner Walter Ostanek and has recorded with blues artist Robert Lockwood Jr. and Buffalo music hall-of-famer "Sahkin Smith."

Antonio's music background began when he was 13. He took a vocal class in high school and taught himself how to play his guitar. In university, he played whenever he could at parties and local bars, but never as a professional. After he graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering in 1997, he moved to Victoria, B.C. to take a "good job offer" and produced his first solo album entitled **Take Me Home**. He moved back to the Niagara region in 1998 to pursue his music career.

"I moved back for a lot of reasons. I wanted to get a band together and it is really tough out there on the island, you know. It is tough to go and get record companies to come out to the islands and see you play."

These guys were not the original members of the band. Antonio, a man who said he became passionate about music at an early age from listening to his father's albums, said he met up with Gunduz and two other members who didn't fit the mix. Reed and Martin, who have been performing together with Gunduz on a couple of projects, replaced them.

His real passion is songwriting. Antonio writes all the songs for the band. The rest of the guys fill in the cracks whenever the music in a song isn't flowing right.

"There is no formula to it (songwriting). Sometimes the tunes just come off the top of my head. They always have to mean something to somebody. I'm a songwriter. I don't write bullshit songs, you know what I mean. I just don't pick words out. They've got to mean something. I get a lot of compliments on my lyrics."

Paul Antonio, singer and songwriter for the Paul Antonio Band, performs with his band at a house gig at the River in Niagara Falls. The band plays there every Thursday and you can hear their song *A Little Too High* on the Web at www.garageband.com.

Photo by Robert Lapensée

He has a very colourful palette of musical influences, ranging from Bruce Springsteen, to Blue Rodeo, to Jackson Browne to Tom Petty. You can really hear Tom Petty's influence in the song *A Little Too High*. To write a song, Antonio will doodle on his guitar to find a rhythm. Then he adds the words.

"Just start strumming like this," Antonio said as he proceeds to strum the strings in a free-for-all kind of way. "Then a tune will come to my head, you know what I mean? And then I put in words that match the rhythm as I'm going. Sometimes I'll be driving in the car and an idea will come up in my head and, you know, you try to keep singing it to yourself until you are able to get home and pick up a guitar. Most times I'll be sitting around the bedroom or sitting down watching TV with my guitar in my hand, just fiddling and that something will sound cool and I'll say 'OK, that is it.'"

Antonio said his definition of a good songwriter is someone who has a lot of experience in life. He said his songs are all about life experiences and that he is disappointed with the way the music scene has shifted to record producers who are only in the business for the money and bands that are not into producing "real music."

"I've got albums from the '70s and '80s that are just great and that I listen to all the time. You know, they stand still in time. The stuff that is coming out now, like Limp Bizkit and all that, is OK, you know. I'll listen to it but, come on, in 10 years from now you are not going to say, 'You remember that one by Kid Rock?' You know, it is not going to happen.

"These are the guys who are selling the most albums to young kids. What is happening is the whole industry is getting off base because the businesses' top guys will sign a band to sell a lot of albums because all they care about is the money, right? And the guys who sell those albums are the crappy bands with some kind of gimmick like Marilyn Manson. The music sucks.

"Sooner or later someone is going to come — and I don't know if it is going to be me but I'm going to try — but someone is going to come around with two electric guitars, a bass player and a drummer, and they are going to bring it all back, back to real music. That is our musical mission: to bring it all back."

Another goal of the band is to make some money. Since half the members are professional musicians, their livelihood depends on it.

"Everybody has different goals but I think, together as a band . . . we are pretty committed. Everyone realizes that we do have a shot at this," he said, adding that the band is looking for the record deal and hoping for enough money from it to live comfortably.

Antonio said another goal is to make an impact on people with his music.

"For me, I want to move the masses. I want to connect with the people. That's what would do it for me. That's where I get my satisfaction. When I come out with a rocking song and I look around the bar, I see everyone bopping around. That is what I like. It is an amazing feeling."

The Paul Antonio band has yet to make a major release. The band has cut a four-song demo and the members are currently working on a five-song album for release. Antonio's favourite song is *A Little Too High*, a song he describes as not a drug song, but a song about him and his friends being high on life. Fans of the band can check out his Web site at www.paulantonio.com. You can also hear *A LittleToo High* in MP3 format on the Web at www.garageband.com.

Thorold Community Theatre
Georgia-Pacific CANADA INC · CP · DANA · DONOHUE
Proudly Presents
SQUABBLES
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Written by Marshall Karp
Directed by Gordon Rowatt
April 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 8 p.m.
April 9 at 2 p.m.
Adults $10.00
Students/Seniors $8.00
Trinity United Church
15 Pine St., South-Thorold
Tickets Available at:
Neale Bookeeping
8 Clairmont, Thorold
905-227-0347
Jack Nash Men's & Ladies Wear
Grantham Shopping Plaza, St.
Box Office
905-935-8934
or at the door

TANTRUM CD'S, RECORDS, ETC.
NEW-USED-BUY-SELL-TRADE
PHONE/FAX (905) 984-3186
386 ST. PAUL STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONT.

Anne's Hair Salon
For a quality Affordable Hair Cut Call
892-8144
To book an appointment today

Riding the Riff IV

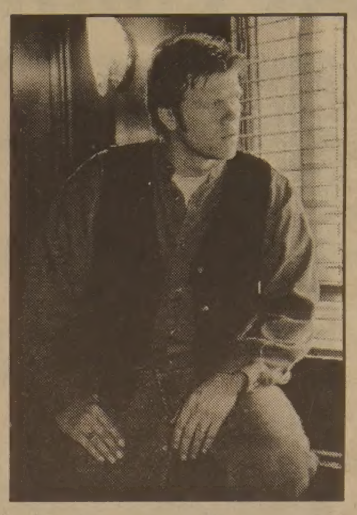
Blues act getting off to a strong start

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Marty Allen has played guitar since he was eight years old. Now, armed with a smoking blues trio, a new CD and a baby daughter, the 34-year-old St. Catharines resident is ready to get his music out to the world.

Allen, bassist Jim Dyck and drummer Larry Coyle will play a CD-release party for their first release **Daybreak's Coming**, March 25 at the Niagara Artists Centre, on Bond Street in St. Catharines.

The band will play selections from their eight-song debut as well as popular cover songs that they have tested in their 14 months together.



MARTY ALLEN

Allen says he's looking forward to the gig and several others they have coming up in April and May.

"Blues has more freedom. It has more soul. You can just let it go on stage," he said, adding he'll be joined onstage by friends and ex-bandmates on March 25.

With a focus on blues in his song writing, Allen is no stranger to the rock 'n' roll styles of Neil Young, John Mellencamp and The Eagles.

He admits that some people have a preconceived notion that blues is "very slow and melodic." When the blues are played from the heart, he says, it can really get the crowd moving. A lot like Stevie Ray Vaughn's style of blues did.

Allen has played in different atmospheres and said it is fun to tailor the music to the surroundings. It gives the band an edge from playing clubs and festivals to playing at wineries and bookstores, he said.

"If people (at shows) go crazy for the blues, we'll go towards that," Allen said, "but if they're more responsive to rock, I'll go to that."

Now that he has the guys he wants to work with, Allen says he has tried to work harder on his band's exposure.

"It takes a lot of time to test the material, but we don't feel too worried."

And worried they shouldn't be.

Daybreak's Coming is a well-produced album that is stripped down just enough to evoke the feeling of a live blues show at its best. The eight songs on the album flow smoothly from one to the next, showcasing the band's experience, in only their first recording together.

You can catch the Marty Allen band on the following dates: April 7 at J.T. Jester's in St. Catharines, April 21 at Lion's Tavern in Port Dalhousie, April 28 at The Limelite in St. Catharines and May 6 at South Side Frankie's in St. Catharines.

You can e-mail him at martya@niagararc.com.

Kevin Gibson doesn't follow the musical moulds

By CRAIG STRATYCHUK
Staff Writer

Not everybody follows the musical moulds.

Kevin Gibson, 26, of St. Catharines, has polished his own style of music that doesn't conform to the trends set by today's standards.

In the beginning, Gibson says, he was influenced heavily by the punk and underground arts. Now artists such as Leonard Cohen and Tom Waits are the artists that most influence his styles.

From his early beginnings as a member of a punk band, to his performances with a Celtic folk band, Gibson's wide knowledge of music is displayed in his songs. Gibson's expansive music preferences are displayed throughout his music.

He calls his brand of music "Dark Folk."

Gibson's songs are written in story format, taking different characters in society and bringing forth their views.

In his music, Gibson explores the pleasures of life and the not-so-happy situations people face.

Gibson says his music "is not a trendy pop product, but heartfelt stories and experiences backed by eclectic arrangements and varying musical styles."

Gibson says he first learned to play the piano under the watchful eye of his mother. It was then that Gibson developed a genuine love for music. He wanted to take this newfound love further. He's now is able to play various instruments, including the guitar, mandolin, bodrhan and button accordion.

His songs have an "overall dark feel," but "there are many songs of love and positive experiences."

Gibson released one CD, **Angel in an Ugly Place**, in November 1999.

Kevin Gibson has polished his own style of music, which doesn't conform to the trends set by today's standards.

Submitted photo

Angel in an Ugly Place is a collection of six songs, three of which are instrumental.

All songs on **Angel in an Ugly Place** are written and performed by Gibson, with help from Gail Poulsen, Kym Drake and Paul Baswick.

The songs all describe the days and nights of a woman who falls into a life of prostitution and her struggle on the streets.

Angel in an Ugly Place is a delicate mix of instrumental and lyrical music, put together as a story and evoking emotion in the listener.

Gibson says his CD "poetically tosses us into a brief, audio experience laced with the spirituality and emotions of different characters who portray various elements of the ever-fascinating human condition."

Gibson says the inspiration for **Angel in an Ugly Place** came after he read the book, Sometimes God has a Kid's Face, by Bruce Ritter.

Gibson can be reached at kgibson@warplink.com.

His latest performance was at Beantrees, in Downtown St. Catharines, on March 21.

Nightshift Blues Band always try to keep music fresh

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Blues music has been around for many years, but George Tirpko and Jerry Salfi say they "always gotta' keep it fresh."

The founding members of The Nightshift Blues Band have been playing together for over 20 years and have recorded two CDs.

Their live show is a rocking mix of original material and bluesy covers designed to keep the audience moving.

"It's gotta' be fun," says Salfi.

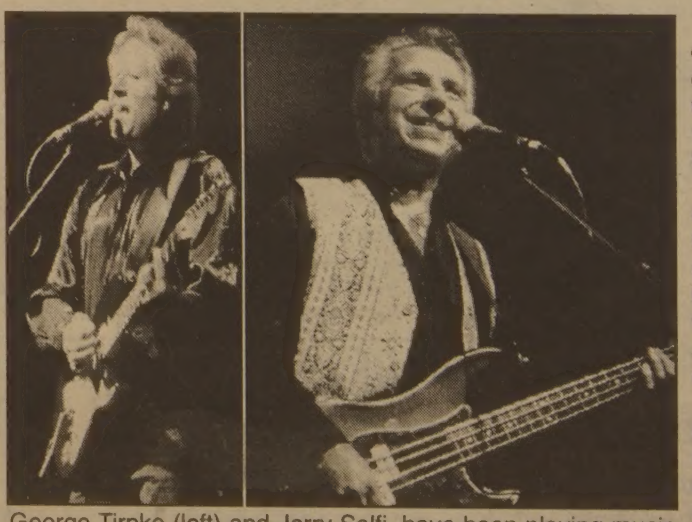
"We play blues music to pick you up. If we don't enjoy what we're playing, it reflects on the audience."

The Nightshift Blues Band has had many different audiences in its four-year history.

They've played everything from The Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls, to a number of clubs in the region.

This summer they'll be playing, for the second time, at the Limestone Blues Festival in Kingston, and an annual gig on the Empire Sandy, a 200-foot schooner.

A number of influences from Eric Clapton to Chris Duarte, a blues rocker from Austin, Tex., have helped The Nightshift Blues Band to bring their music to new levels.



George Tirpko (left) and Jerry Salfi, have been playing music together for over 20 years.

Submitted photos

Tirpko and Salfi say they have been privileged to work with different drummers and other musicians, who have helped The Nightshift Blues Band expand its versatility.

"You have to enjoy what you're doing and enjoy the people you work with," said Salfi.

The band has also benefited from the Internet and the ability to have their latest release, **Kids Are Jumpin'**, heard all over the world.

They said, "an indie act has a lot of opportunities these days," and that they have received positive responses in Greece and the Czech Republic. The Internet has also allowed their music to be heard across Canada and in the United States, where independent artists don't get many commercial opportunities.

Salfi added National Public Radio in the United States and the Canadian Broadcast System Radio are good venues for independent artists. He says these types of radio stations allow artists like them more freedom to make the kind of music they want.

The band's two CDs, **Bullet From a Gun** and **Kids Are Jumpin'**, are available at selected Sam the Record Man stores in the Niagara region. They play every Thursday at The Mansion House tavern in St. Catharines.

The Empire Sandy schooner party leaves from Port Weller in St. Catharines, June 10. Tickets are available through Shirley Tomowicki at 735-2211, ext. 7521.

ENTERTAINMENT

After Hours Pub offered comic relief

Stand-up comic brought many laughs to After Hours

BY MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

Comedy night was full of laughs at After Hours on the Welland campus on March 15.

Roger Chandler, a 20-year veteran of stand-up comedy, took the stage with a beer in his hand and the bright lights in his face.

He covered a wide range of topics in his act.

"I just got out of rehab. I was hooked on phonics," says Chandler.

His short but to-the-point jokes were loudly appreciated by the crowd.

"Stress tapes cause more stress . . . I took my girlfriend to the zoo, and I got $40 for her." He says he used to work for McDonald's, but got fired because "my face cleared up."

The second comedian who took the stage was B.J. Woodbury, 35, of Toronto.

He's a 15-year veteran of comedy. "I love it."

He says comedy is a "therapeutic aspect of laughing at your own problems." He joked about his experience of falling asleep in the sun for five-and-a-half hours.

He says he "gets in trouble with his mouth."

Woodbury told stories and fantasies of his sex life that got a laughing response from the audience. His political view that "women run the planet" went hand-in-hand with the statement, "I love sex."

The gigantic comic can speak five languages and is going for his commercial pilot's license.

Woodbury says he tries to play Niagara College "at least once a year."

"I like the people. There's no downside to Niagara College."

Woodbury is no stranger to film, although, he says, "I prefer comedy." He has done a two-year stint as the town blacksmith on Road to Avonlea and he was featured regularly as Helmet Wintergarden on The Red Green Show. He has played on Tek Wars, Due South, Top Cops, War of the Worlds, Friday the 13th and on various commercials throughout North America.

"There is a huge difference on film than stage," he says. Woodbury says he isn't "bothered by hecklers." In fact, it's "beneficial" because it can work for his act. He says he doesn't "hack" on people because he doesn't like doing that.

B.J. Woodbury delivers his routine at After Hours on March 15.
Photo by Mark Garrett

Sonique takes you higher

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Multi-talented British diva and deejay Sonique has hit North America with astounding success.

Her first single, *Feels so Good,* is rapidly climbing the club and billboard charts.

Sonique has the ability to capture her audience and listeners with her mixing/scratching DJ techniques and deep, husky vocals.

Her recently released full-length album, titled ***Hear My Cry,*** gives fans a little taste of everything.

From the disco beats of *I Put A Spell On You* and *Are You Ready* to the techno groove of *Love Is On* and *Move Closer,* fans are sure to be enlightened.

Sonique hits home with soft ballads and melancholy lyrics

with such tracks as *Learn To Forget* and *Cold and Lonely.*

With exceptional talents ranging from mixing and scratching records, to melodic vocals and catchy lyrics, Sonique is sure to be the "next big thing" in the club scene.

This artist will take the combination of techno, hip-hop, drum and bass and rhythm and blues to higher level.

She is an artist to keep a lookout for as she continually rises on the music charts.

At-home help for new parents

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

"One of the most frightening experiences in life is becoming a parent for the first time. Even the best prepared parents are shocked to find how insecure and uncertain their new baby makes them feel. This book is written with the average scared parent in mind."

That wisdom is from one of the books in the series *Your Home Doctor,* entitled *Babies,* written by Dr. Robert Fallis.

Fallis is a St. Catharines family physician with experience in emergency medicine. His book deals with the 25 most common medical problems that babies experience within the first two years of their lives.

The book gives a quick explanation of what these illnesses are and how parents can help their child feel better without running to a doctor all the time. It also advises parents when to go to a doctor for medical help.

"Each topic is dealt with in a no-nonsense approach and ensures a quick read and workable solution for busy mothers," Fallis was quoted in a press release as saying.

"Kids get sick with surprising regularity. It is well within the normal range for otherwise healthy preschool children to acquire anywhere from six to 12 infections per year," Fallis said.

The book also contains easy-to-follow flow charts and practical tips to help parents diagnose illness and to decide on a treatment.

Some of the topics the book covers are allergic reactions, crying, bronchitis, colic, earaches and febrile seizures.

The flow charts in the book use a question format. For example, if a baby is crying, the reader is asked, "Do the diapers need changing?" The following series of questions works its way down, so a parent can diagnose the problem.

The book will help parents who don't know much about what illnesses babies can get, but they should keep in mind that even though this seems easy, some symptoms can appear to be more threatening than they seem to be.

Blind Date will rock Niagara

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

The Molson Blind Date Tour will be rocking Niagara College.

On April 11, The Molson Blind Date Tour will be held at the Mackenzie building on the Welland campus.

The only way to get into the venue is by "winning tickets" says Dave Rapelje, manager of the After Hours pub at the Welland campus and Alexander Davidson's pub at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Student Administrative Council will be distributing tickets through contests and giveaways.

Niagara News and the CRNC 90.1 FM will also be holding contests to win tickets.

After Hours pub and Alexander Davidson's pub will be holding contests too.

The concert will "be licensed" says Rapelje. "We're looking forward to it." Nobody under the age of 19 will be able to enter the show.

Rapelje says "it will be a bigger band" this year compared with last year's show, which was Big Sugar. In 1998 Canadian fiddler Ashley MacIsaac was the blind date.

There is a "good chance" two bands, an opening act and a headliner will be playing.

The doors will be open from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone attending has to be in the gym during that time or won't be allowed in.

STUDENTS CHECK IT OUT!
MINI SALVAGE
1874 #20 Hwy Fonthill
Salvage Dealer Liquidator
Unit #10
Great selection of carpet!
PRE-OWNED FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS
OPEN WEEKENDS ONLY
Sat. 9 - 4 Sun. 10 - 4

GOURMET Restaurant
Zellers PLaza, Bunting Rd.
935-1339
Fully Licensed Banquet Facilities
The Famous Flambe is Back!
Let our Famous Chef *Vito Genco* prepare you the most exciting table-side dinner you'll never forget!
– Reservations Only –
*We also specialize in: * Prime Rib * New York Steak * Fish Platters*

PREMIERE MODELS
School • Agency
Courses in:
• Self Improvement
• Professional Modelling
• Runway Modelling
• Dance
CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
646-0166

Don't Be *Pushed* into Abortion
TAKE CONTROL . . . CHOOSE LIFE
Your complete resource centre on Pro-Life
• Books • Audio Tapes & Presentation Kits avail.
• Videos • Brochures
St. Catharines RIGHT TO LIFE Inc.
110 Geneva St., St. Catharines 684-7505

My Story

From Japan to Canada with respect

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer
Column

I didn't want to go with the tide.

I needed an adventure.

After graduating from high school, quite a few Japanese go to college or university just because that's the way it is. Our social norm makes teachers encourage students to get into a "brand-name" university, which supposedly promises a bright future. Parents feel good about themselves when they send their children to university.

To enter a prestigious school requires a tremendous amount of study and struggling with severe frustrations. However, once you get in, the rest is heaven.

For many students what they really want to study doesn't seem to be the main purpose for going to college.

The post-secondary education philosophy tends to be "tough to get in and easy to get out." I think that system gives students too much freedom and distracts them from the main focus of academic study.

Four years ago, I envisioned myself in that situation, and I couldn't see myself there. It didn't feel right.

Instead of falling into the majority who longed for the so-called "best time of your life," I chose to study English faraway from home.

At least, it seemed to be more exciting to me.

In April 1997, I landed in this country for the first time.

I spent my first year with a Canadian host family, while studying at a small college in Fort St. John, B.C.

It's true that being away from your own country makes you realize more about your country and nationality.

At this college located in the remote north, I experienced real rural Canadian life.

At that time, every single thing was new and different to me. It was so fascinating every day to go to school, meet people, speak English, play with snow and kids, hang out at the mall, watch The Simpsons, and eat junk food or Kraft Dinner. My host family treated me as one of the family. They showed me many things and took me everywhere with them, such as camping, fishing and skiing, and to family gatherings.

By the time I moved from there, I had a pretty good grasp of the Canadian way of living.

In May 1998, my curiosity brought me to Eastern Canada. Moving to an area with more population, which I was used to in Japan, was a dramatic change for me. Since then, I've been studying journalism here and will be graduating soon.

Having been in Canada for almost three years, I've absorbed many things that I would have never come across in my life at home in Japan.

First, experiencing a different culture gave me an objective view about my own country. It's true that being away from your own country makes you realize more about your country and nationality. I used to criticize the bad aspects of my country, but living in a different culture made me aware of the positive aspects too.

Second, the other advantage I now have is knowing people from around the world I've met here in Canada. It helped me to respect others who have different backgrounds and values.

Third, being away from home, I learned to be flexible, independent and confident. There are only a few people I can turn to and I feel unprotected once in a while, but

the experience gave me strength. Now I'm not afraid of going anywhere in the world.

In addition, oddly, I found myself having two different personalities — one when speaking my first language, and the other, when speaking English. I'm trying to be myself as I am when I'm in my Japanese mode and I do want to express myself, but it's not easy.

Finally, I believe the environment which you are in has a big influence. It has totally changed the way I think, the way I see, and probably the way I am. Studying abroad has made a huge impact on my life and has been a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. I appreciate all the people I've met here.

Achieve a great degree of success

Increase your marketability, advance your career, and improve your earning power with a university degree that builds on your college diploma... a self-paced degree you can earn on your own time through home-study, without leaving your job.

Athabasca University, Canada's leader in distance education, offers post-diploma bachelor degrees in Administration, Communication, Computing Information Systems, Criminal Justice, Human Services, Nursing, and Science.

These bachelor degrees have been developed in response to the career and advancement needs of professionals who, in many cases, find that the lack of a degree prevents them from progressing in their fields as far or as quickly as they'd like.

Your two- or three-year diploma could put you half-way or better toward your degree.

You can apply for admission to all programs if you have:

- A two- or three-year college diploma in a related field

You can apply for admission to some programs if you have:

- A prior degree, or have completed two years of university and have work experience in the field
- Non-formal education or training and/or significant work experience in the field

Why wait? Apply today!

1-800-788-9041,
e-mail auinfo@athabascau.ca,
or visit www.athabascau.ca

Athabasca University

Canada's Open University™

PREMIERE MODELS
School • Agency
Courses in:
- Self Improvement
- Professional Modelling
- Runway Modelling
- Dance

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
646-0166

EDWARD BOOKER
FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- experienced
- effective
- reliable

VOTE

- hardworking
- knowledgeable
- honest

Make sure your voice is heard on the Board of Governors
Vote for Edward Booker on March 28th

ATTENTION: STUDENTS
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

- The Summer Jobs Service is now accepting applications from students interested in summer employment opportunities

THROUGH SUMMER JOBS SERVICE YOU CAN...

- Obtain job leads for subsidized placement
- Access job search resources and local labour market information

EACH YEAR EMPLOYERS CONTACT THE SUMMER JOBS SERVICE SEEKING STUDENTS TO FILL JOB VACANCIES

DON'T MISS OUT...APPLY NOW!

Contact the Summer Jobs Service today at 641-2252, ext. 4163 or stop by and visit us. Applications are available at:
Glendale Campus - Room W107
Niagara College Career Centre - 4-C Clark Street (St. Catharines)
and 6255 Huggins Street (Stamford Green Plaza, Niagara Falls)

Funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

SPORTS

European teams compete in Little NHL

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

The Little National Hockey League (NHL) is growing.

Initially, the Little NHL tournament had teams from Canada and United States facing off, but now the Europeans have joined in the fun.

On March 13, a team from Nitra, Slovakia, lined up on the ice to face the Welland Peewee AAA Tigers. After the Slovak national anthem echoed in the ears of everybody who was at the Welland arena, the opposing team members skated over to one another to shake hands and to exchange gifts.

"It's a good way for our boys to get to know others with a different culture," said Ross Staples, a co-chairman of the tournament, adding he looked at it as a cultural exchange.

The Slovak team isn't the only one that came to get a taste of Canadian hockey. A team from Mannheim, Germany, came to find out what Canadian hockey was like. Last year, a team from Sweden participated.

"Having these teams being here could cause other teams from other countries to want to come here and play in the Little NHL, like maybe Poland or Belarus," said Staples.

Welland's players weren't gentle hosts in a 2-2 tie in Slovakia's first game. Ben Ross, No. 6 for Welland Peewee AAA Tigers, heard boos from around the arena after being named Most Valuable Player (MVP) because of his elbowing and shoving from behind.

"It was disgusting the way they played. We didn't play that kind of dirty hockey in Slovakia," said Filip Kubus, No. 1, a goalie for Slovakia, through a translator. "They kept hitting us even when we were down." He added he had fun, nevertheless, and he likes Canada.

The Little NHL consisted of 60 teams in five separate divisions: Atom A, Atom AAA, Peewee A, Peewee AAA and Bantam A.

There were 160 games played in five different arenas including both Welland arenas, both Port Colborne arenas and Pelham's.

In 1936, Georgetown, Ont., gave birth to the Little NHL, which has grown considerably since then. For the last 26 years, the tournament has been held in Welland.

"I think Europeans look at Canada as the hockey capital of the world," said Staples. "To find out how good you are, you have to play against Canadians."

The Slovak team exchanges gifts with Welland Peewee AAA team before the game.

Photo by Mike Dilts

April means playoff grind

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer
Column

Keep those sticks down, boys; we're in the playoff hunt here.

It seems all anyone wants to talk about these days is how violent and careless National Hockey League players were this season, and to an extent, they have a good point.

However, April is just around the corner, and the biggest April fooling seems to be off the ice, rather than on it.

The following teams aren't fooling me one bit: Philadelphia, Ottawa, Detroit and Dallas.

These teams can have all the fun they want beating up on the likes of Tampa Bay and Atlanta during the regular season, but come playoffs, these big-budget clubs often bite the dust.

Although Dallas and Detroit have won the last three Stanley Cups, the scrappy, hard-working teams like Washington, New Jersey and St. Louis seem to be winning the big games this year.

If teams like Toronto and Pittsburgh can avoid the recurring injuries plaguing Sergei Berezin and Jaromir Jagr, they both have the tools to go to the finals.

The West has really heated up now that Colorado has acquired defenceman Ray Bourque. Peter Forsberg is finally healthy and Joe Sakic has been a rock all season. Colorado also sports one of the greatest playoff goaltenders in history, Patrick Roy.

If you get first pick in the playoff pool, however, pick St. Louis' Pavol Demitra. This guy is the best all-round player in St. Louis since Doug Gilmour was there. He's helping Pierre Turgeon to a career year, and with defenceman Al MacInnis, St. Louis has the power play to take them to the Stanley Cup.

The East is tough to call this year, but don't take Miroslav Satan in the pool. Buffalo won't get home ice in the first round, and that means they don't stand a chance of beating Toronto or New Jersey. Home ice will be critical to the Eastern teams. Only Florida stands a chance of overcoming a possible low seeding in the playoffs.

Barring any further sloppy facelifts like the one Marion Hossa performed on Bryan Berard, here's how the final four should look.

In the Eastern final, Toronto will play Washington and could scrape out the series if Curtis Joseph stands on his head (his normal playoff routine).

In the West, Colorado will have to knock off Detroit to play St. Louis for the conference championship. A well-rested St. Louis team will breeze past the lowest-seeded teams and have enough left to shut down Colorado's potent power play.

If the Leafs lose to the Blues in the cup final, I'll try not to skin my knee when jumping off the you-know-what.

Recruiting for 2000-01

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

Now that the Niagara College athletic season is over, it is time for the athletic department to focus on recruiting.

Niagara is busy — just as all colleges are — in regard to recruiting. All schools are exploring new athletic talent to enrol in their schools.

Ray Sarkis, Niagara's athletic director, has been through the recruiting process many times, and this year will be no different.

"Recruiting is very important for our teams to have success next season," he says.

The men's basketball team probably faces the toughest recruiting challenge. The team is coming off an excellent season that propelled it to 15th in the nation.

Out of the 12-man roster, the team is only going to have six players returning, so recruiting by head coach Ralph Nero is essential.

However, the good news for the team is that recruiting seems to be on track and the attitude is optimistic, says Sarkis.

The recruiting process consists of roughly 18 to 20 players trying out for the team. Out of these players, only six or seven will crack the roster, and it's likely that three players will be recruited locally.

The athletic department is looking forward to recruiting in the Toronto region. LeVar Morgan is a forward being pursued by Humber College of Etobicoke and Sheridan College of Toronto.

The men's volleyball has four or five players to recruit in order to fill its roster out for next season. The women's volleyball team needs four to five new players.

All college athletes are invited to the college sport banquet on Tuesday, March 28, at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus.

NHL stars should play for glory, not for cash

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer
Column

Does your boss pay you to just show up for work? No? Then why does the National Hockey League (NHL)?

There are many reasons Canada could lose its NHL teams, but the most well-known one is the big paycheques the players are receiving.

In the past, the Stanley Cup and the glory of just playing in the NHL were the main motivation for the players, but now the only focus is how much money they can make.

Alexi Yashin, captain of the Ottawa Senators, is a good example of the players who would rather have money than the Stanley Cup or play for just the privilege of playing in the NHL. He's been holding out for more money since the beginning of training camp and has not been playing out his contract with one year left.

Ottawa has a good chance to win the Stanley Cup this year, but Yashin would rather turn his back on his teammates and the Stanley Cup so he can have a bigger paycheque.

With almost any job, people have to produce the work in order to be paid, so why shouldn't the NHL be the same?

Here's my proposed pay schedule.

For just being in the NHL, the players should be paid $1 million each. That might sound a little high, but many players don't stay in the game very long. They either are injured and can't play any more, or they are not of a calibre to remain in the NHL. For those who think it might be low, anybody can live the rest of his life with $1 million if invested right.

Now, the players have to earn the rest. Each goal and an assist should earn $5,000. The goals and assists must be the same, so the players don't hog the puck and try to always get the goal to get more money. They shouldn't mind helping set up goals too.

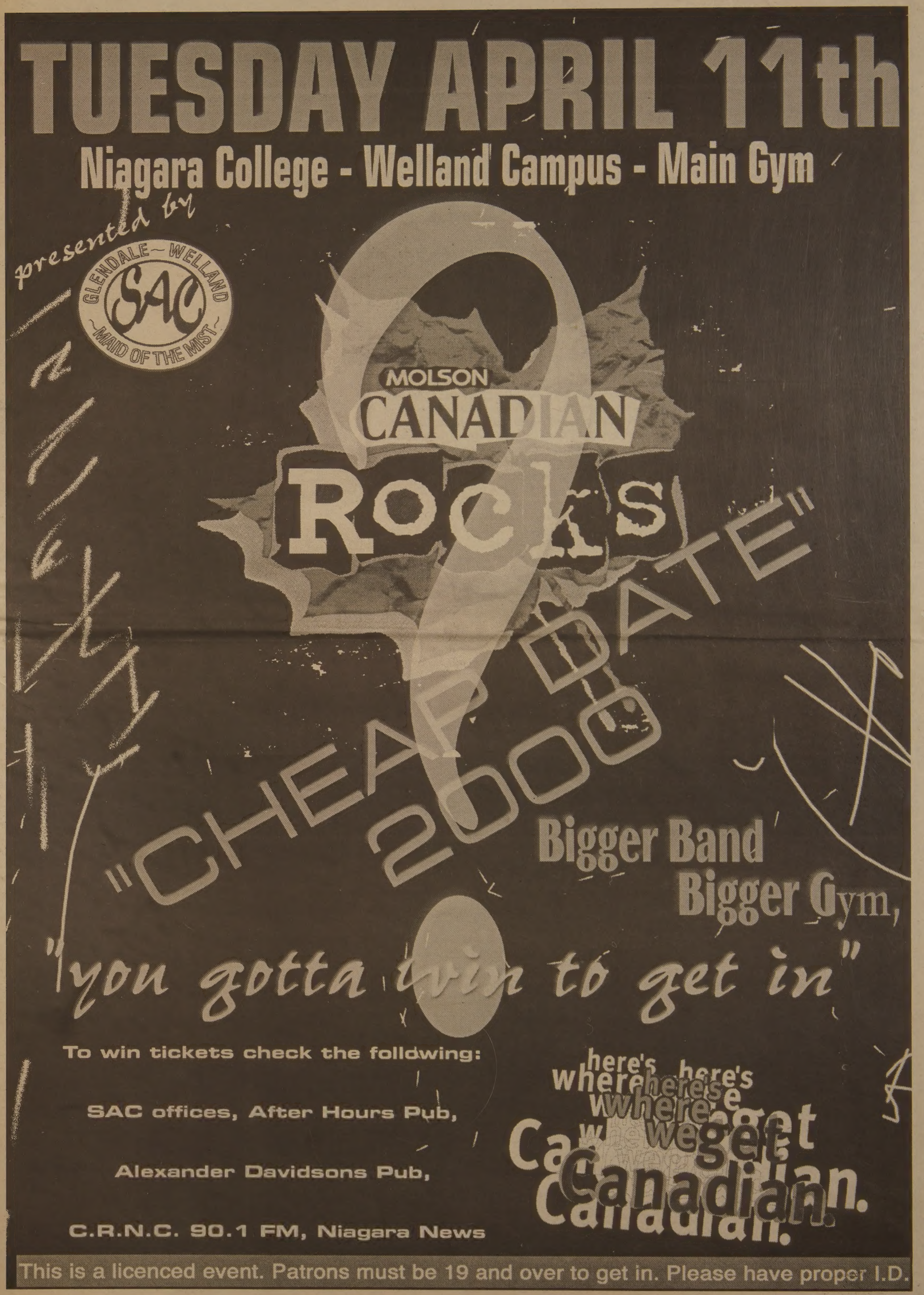
For blocking shots, the players should receive $1,500 for each if they block the shot wisely and it doesn't end up in a goal.

Goalies need to be paid differently than the rest of the players. It's hard for goalies to get goals or assists, but it's not unheard of (ask Ron Hextall). Each shutout a goalie makes should be worth $10,000. For each scoring chance he stops, he should earn $2,500.

All players should get $10,000 for getting into the playoffs and $10,000 more for each round after that. If the team wins the Stanley Cup, the players get a bonus of $1 million each.

This might not sound as if they are getting paid much, but if a team wins the Stanley Cup, a player can get just more than $2 million for one year without scoring goals, getting assists and blocking shots.

The money problems might not be totally solved, but it would stop the players from bailing out on their team for a better contract. Maybe the players will also play harder since they would have to earn their money.


TUESDAY APRIL 11th
Niagara College - Welland Campus - Main Gym
presented by
GLENDALE~WELAND
SAC
~MAID OF THE MIST~
MOLSON
CANADIAN
ROCKS
"CHEAP BATE"
2000
Bigger Band
Bigger Gym,
"you gotta twin to get in"
To win tickets check the folldwing:
SAC offices, After Hours Pub,
Alexander Davidsons Pub,
C.R.N.C. 90.1 FM, Niagara News
here's where we get Canadian.
This is a licenced event. Patrons must be 19 and over to get in. Please have proper I.D.

KIDS' WORLD

Helping others is way of life for ECE worker

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Helping others is a way of life for Jeanette Yacura.

Yacura, 46, of Comox, B.C., spends about 48 hours a week providing help and care to those in need in her community.

She is a graduate of the Early Childhood Education program at Mohawk College in Hamilton. She said she has "always been in the child care field."

She started with a job as co-ordinator of a parent resource centre, which is for parents of high-risk or high-need children. There the parents learn about child development. "I would role model how to be a parent."

Yacura said she has always had an interest in children. "In kindergarten my teacher asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I knew then." She told her teacher she wanted to be a foster parent, and she ended up working for Family and Children Services.

Currently, the five-foot-eight, dark-haired woman is involved with many different organizations. She is employed at three different locations as a support worker for children with special needs.

At Kinnikinik, a child care facility in Comox, she takes care of a one-and-a-half year-old boy with cerebral palsy during the morning and a behaviourally-challenged 10-year-old boy during the afternoon. Also at Little Blessings Daycare in Comox she takes care of a four-year-old girl with multiple challenges.

Along with these jobs Yacura is busy volunteering her time in the community. She is co-ordinator of Let Us Share the Harvest Valley, a food box program for people in need.

They can pay for the box of fresh vegetables on the day they receive their welfare cheques and then pick up the box the last week before they get another cheque.

"It is so they have good food to eat the last week."

Yacura is responsible for ordering and purchasing the food, collecting the money, distributing the boxes, and all of the public relations work.

She volunteers at the Crisis Line as well. "I answer the phone for people in a crisis situation." She said the service is "very well advertised," and all the social services give the number out in Comox. She previously volunteered for Transition Houses and other crisis lines. "I knew it was something I was interested in sharing with the community here."

She volunteers as a supervisor at the Teen Centre, a recreation centre at the air base in Comox.

Aside from the work she does in her community, she is a mother of three children. Her eldest son is 20, her middle son is 15, and her daughter is 12.

Yacura said one thing someone working in her field must have is patience. She said you have to be a care giving person. "I have always wanted to take care of everything."

Yacura said her job is "very rewarding" because she can see children grow emotionally and developmentally.

"I like to see that I can help them take those developmental steps, because they need help, unlike other children." She said seeing children reach the milestones other children reach naturally is something special to her.

"I enjoy it so much that I don't see it as difficult. It's something that comes naturally."

'You can't find me . . .'

Riley, a child from the Niagara College Child Care Centre, peeks out as he plays "Peek a boo" with the camera.

Photo by Jennifer Mago

St. Patrick's Day Fun

Some second-year Recreation and Leisure Services program students collaborated with the Big Sisters Association of Welland on March 15, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, at Sunset Haven retirement home.

Photo by Tracey Allison

Fun in the cold . . .

From left, Korinne, Ethan, Riley and Scott, play on the Day Care Centre playground, while getting some fresh air outside.

Photo by Jennifer Mago